

# THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE<sup>®</sup>



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**THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE  
MARVEL UNIVERSE**



**DAREDEVIL**  
2004



# BLACK WIDOW

**REAL NAME:** Natalia "Natasha" Alianovna Romanova

**KNOWN ALIASES:** Natasha Romanoff, Nancy Rushman, Laura Matthers, Oktober, Tsarina, Natalia Shostakova

**IDENTITY:** Publicly known

**OCCUPATION:** Adventurer, intelligence operative, former ballerina

**CITIZENSHIP:** Former citizen of the U.S.S.R., resident in United States of America under extended visa authorized by S.H.I.E.L.D.

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Stalingrad, former U.S.S.R.

**MARITAL STATUS:** Widowed

**KNOWN RELATIVES:** Unnamed parents (presumed deceased); Alexi Shostakov (Red Guardian, husband, deceased); Vindiktor (alleged brother, deceased)

**GROUP AFFILIATION:** Avengers, S.H.I.E.L.D.; former member of the "Marvel Knights," Queen's Vengeance, Champions of Los Angeles, Lady Liberators, and K.G.B.; former partner of Daredevil

**EDUCATION:** College graduate

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Tales of Suspense Vol. 1 #52 (1964)

**HISTORY:** Natalia Romanova, known to most as Natasha Romanoff, is rumored to be a relative of the Romanoffs, the last ruling czars of Russia, but nothing else is known of her family. During World War II, a Nazi assault upon Stalingrad set the building she was in on fire. A woman, possibly her mother, threw her into the arms of a Russian soldier named Ivan Petrovich before being consumed by the flames.

Ivan brought Natasha under his protection and soon had to defend her from her many enemies. In 1941, Natasha was sought by the Nazi Baron Strucker, who presented her to the Hand to become their master assassin. She was saved from Strucker and the Hand by Ivan, the American super hero Captain America, and the Canadian adventurer Logan.

Under Ivan's care, Natasha grew to pursue her goal of becoming a ballet dancer and studied under Oksana Bolishinko, a famous Bolshoi instructor. She fell in love with a Soviet test pilot named Alexi Shostakov but was grief-stricken when he apparently died testing an experimental rocket. Natasha decided that she would honor Alexi's memory by becoming an intelligence operative, not realizing that this was what the K.G.B. had hoped would happen when they informed her of Alexi's death. She was instructed by the K.G.B. in their infamous Red Room Academy and under their training, she became their most skilled operative, a superb fighter and information-gatherer. The K.G.B. gave her the code name of "Black Widow," and quickly sent her into the field.

When Logan resurfaced in America, now bereft of his memory, Natasha set out as the Black Widow to save him from a team of Hydra assassins. She soon encountered Logan again when he, Ben Grimm, and Carol Danvers stole the Red Storm Project from Russia. Natasha pursued them but was ordered off by her superiors.

The Black Widow's first encounter with Iron Man came when she was directed to slay Anton Vanko, the creator of the Soviet Crimson Dynamo armor, who had defected to America. Natasha attempted to distract Tony Stark while her partner Boris Turgenov used the Crimson Dynamo to destroy Stark's plants. Turgenov and Vanko wound up perishing in battle, and Natasha remained in America to find some way of regaining the K.G.B.'s favor.

Since Tony Stark was still unaware that she was a K.G.B. operative, she continued to romance him so that she could steal a new anti-gravity device he had created. She managed to use the device to commit various acts of sabotage, even lifting entire buildings into the air, but Iron Man nullified the device and she barely escaped capture, now unable to trick Stark into lowering his guard.

By luck, Natasha happened upon the novice costumed crime fighter Hawkeye, who had been mistaken for a criminal by the police. Hawkeye was so taken with Natasha that she was able to entice him into an attempt at stealing plans from Tony Stark. Hawkeye fought Iron Man while Natasha watched from a distance, but when Iron Man deflected one of Hawkeye's explosive arrows, the force of the impact struck Natasha down, knocking her unconscious. Hawkeye fled the scene to help Natasha recover.



Art by Gabriele Dell'Otto



After Natasha recovered, her superiors instructed her to avoid Stark Industries for a time and directed her instead to target Williams Innovations. She duped Hawkeye into assaulting that firm, but Spider-Man intervened and Hawkeye turned back as he had begun to suspect his lover's true motivations. Natasha later sent Hawkeye out on a second attempt to steal Stark's plans. However, while Hawkeye was gone, she was kidnapped by the K.G.B. and returned to Russia. The K.G.B. designed a new costume for her and equipped her with her "widow's bite" and "widow's line." With these new weapons Natasha joined Hawkeye in battle against Iron Man in an attempt to destroy him, but when Iron Man shocked Natasha with an electrical blast Hawkeye disobeyed her orders to save her life once again. The K.G.B. then returned and stole Natasha away from Hawkeye.

This time the K.G.B. brainwashed Natasha to ensure her loyalty to the state; in her next mission, she found herself pitted against Hawkeye, who had become a member of the Avengers. Her love for Hawkeye allowed her to resist the brainwashing, and she finally turned against the K.G.B. She became an ally of the Avengers for awhile, aiding them against the Sons of the Serpent. She also proved instrumental in defeating the alien Ultroids who were certain the Avengers would not kill their leader Ixar because of their oath against killing, but Natasha forced Ixar to surrender, reasoning that as she was not an Avenger, she was not bound by their oaths.

On an assignment for S.H.I.E.L.D., Natasha discovered that Alexi Shostakov was still alive, and had been transformed by the K.G.B. into the costumed hero, the Red Guardian. She and the Avengers opposed the Red Guardian and his masters, and Alexi died in the battle. For a while Natasha abandoned her identity as the Black Widow, just as the Avengers were about to make her an official member.

Natasha finally decided to resume the Black Widow identity, but soon broke off her relationship with Hawkeye so that she could pursue a solo career. She adopted a new all-black uniform and became a vigilante, battling street gangs and organized crime in New York. Ivan had come to America by then, and he served as her chauffeur and confidant. Her new methods of operation brought her into contact with Daredevil, and she soon developed both a professional and personal relationship with him, battling side by side as they fell in love.

Natasha was less taken with Matt's law partner Foggy Nelson, who was manipulated by the villain Mr. Kline into prosecuting her for the murder of the Scorpion (it was actually a robot duplicate of the Scorpion created by Mr. Kline). Although Natasha was proven innocent, she never truly forgave Foggy for the savagery of his courtroom assault.

Matt broke up with his long-time love, Karen Page, so that he could be with Natasha, and the two of them moved to San Francisco to start a new life together. They fought against menaces such as the Man-Bull, the Blue Talon, Dark Messiah, Angar the Screamer, Ramrod, Terrex, Kraven the Hunter, the Death Stalker, the Owl, El Jaguar, Hydra, and Damon Dran, the Indestructible Man.

Natasha wanted to find a new career for herself beyond the day-to-day adventures she and Daredevil enjoyed, and attempted to become a fashion designer, but her career never took off, and her relationship with Matt became strained.

Natasha left Daredevil briefly to accept an offer of membership in the Avengers after aiding them against Magneto, but she soon left them after determining from a battle against the Lion God that she did not fit into a team environment. Natasha and Matt reconciled for

awhile, but after a lengthy romance, Natasha finally broke up with Matt because she felt he did not treat her as an equal in battle.

Still on the West Coast, Natasha joined forces with Ghost Rider (John Blaze) and Angel and Iceman of the X-Men when the gods Hercules and Venus were captured by the armies of Pluto and Ares. After having saved Hercules from a forced marriage, he joined the four heroes to found a new super-hero team, the Champions. Based in Los Angeles and bankrolled by the Angel, the team enjoyed modest success in their adventures. During this time, Natasha became involved with Hercules, but his perspective as an immortal made a long-term relationship seem unimportant. The Champions finally disbanded due to bankruptcy.

Although she and Daredevil had parted ways, the Black Widow was still well-known to Daredevil's enemies as a woman he had loved, and Natasha was captured by Bullseye to be used as bait in an attempt to slay Daredevil. However, Natasha escaped her bonds and aided Daredevil in defeating Bullseye.

Damon Dran, one of Natasha's enemies from her days with Daredevil, captured Ivan in order to lure Natasha to his island, where he set an army of female combat specialists against her. Dran intended to send an agent impersonating the Black Widow to infiltrate the S.H.I.E.L.D. Helicarrier and assassinate Nick Fury, but Natasha defeated his agents, warned Fury, and saved Ivan from Dran before S.H.I.E.L.D. bombed Dran's island.

The Black Widow was once more embroiled in the schemes of the Hand when she attempted to prevent them from stealing the body of their master warrior, Kirigi, from the morgue. The Hand struck Natasha down with poisons that killed her, but Stone of the Chaste restored her to life. She joined forces with Daredevil and Stone against the Hand when they attempted to revive Elektra. Natasha guessed at the time that Elektra had been successfully revived, but kept this from Matt for his own good.

When Natasha learned that Oksana Bolishinko, her old instructor, was in America at the Russian Embassy, she broke into the premises, seeking to apologize to her mentor for abandoning the ballet to become a spy. Oksana replied that Natasha was not the only pupil of hers who had been stolen away by the K.G.B., and that she accepted that espionage was Natasha's true calling.

Russian agents then created a Life Model Decoy (LMD) of Alexi Shostakov, which they used to dupe Natasha into believing her husband was still alive. With threats of terminating Alexi, they coerced her into performing acts of espionage for Russia against the U.S. Upon gaining the desired technology, the Russians revealed the truth and tried to kill the Widow, but with the aid of Ivan, she defeated them and destroyed the LMD.

Natasha later joined forces with Iron Man to prevent the Russian sleeper agent code named "Oktober" from launching nuclear missiles which would have caused World War III. Unknown to Natasha, she herself was Oktober, and succeeded in launching the missiles. Fortunately, Iron Man prevented them from being detonated and aided Natasha in capturing the K.G.B. agent responsible for Natasha's reprogramming. The Widow also worked alongside Daredevil against the murdering telepath known as Rose, who had targeted other telepaths, including several members of S.H.I.E.L.D.'s ESPer unit.

S.H.I.E.L.D. sent the Widow to investigate the Molina, the Russian Mafia, which thrust her into the middle of the decades old struggle



between two seeming immortals, the vigilante Night Raven and the drug smuggling Yi Yang. The Widow assisted in foiling Yi Yang's plot and was witness to Yi Yang crashing her helicopter on top of the Night Raven. No bodies were found in the wreckage.

Natasha eventually returned to the Avengers and assumed the mantle of leadership, usually managing the team's operations from Avengers Mansion while allowing the Black Knight to lead in the field. During this time she also became attracted to Captain America, but wound up sleeping with Tony Stark instead. Her tenure as the Avengers' leader came to a sorrowful end when most of the team was apparently slain battling Onslaught. Unable to rebuild the Avengers roster herself, and threatened with legal action from the Maria Stark Foundation, the Black Widow allowed the Avengers to dissolve.

Considering herself to be the last Avenger, Natasha embarked upon a personal mission to bring down all of the Avengers' former enemies, including the Grey Gargoyle and the Masters of Evil. She again encountered Daredevil at this time, who was concerned with her mental state as he witnessed her obsessive hunting of the Grey Gargoyle. Natasha's presence in Daredevil's life again complicated his relationship with Karen Page, which at that time was still being rebuilt. Although Natasha was willing to rekindle their relationship, she acknowledged that Karen was the woman Matt loved and nobly allowed them their space. Later on, she even offered to assist Karen after she had been framed for murder by Mr. Fear.

Natasha was also the first person to correctly identify the former members of the Masters of Evil who had adopted the guise of the heroic Thunderbolts. She attempted to turn M.A.C.H.-1 and Songbird against Baron Zemo before he could make his move, inspiring them by telling them how Hawkeye, Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch had redeemed their own criminal pasts, but Zemo set his plan into motion before they could reach a decision.

The Avengers finally returned and resumed their operations, but the Black Widow has only occasionally assisted them on missions, still feeling responsible for the team's disbanding. Instead, she has focused on her espionage work. Natasha has accepted several more assignments from S.H.I.E.L.D., such as impersonating the terrorist leader Ebon Flame in order to shut down her organization, Freedom's Light. She also had Iron Man assist her in infiltrating the forced-labor camp for scientists run by Tuatara under the Mandarin's direction.

Natasha came close to learning some truths about her past when she was led into a trap by a man named Vindiktor, who claimed to have a copy of Natasha's mother's diary. This turned out to be false, but as Natasha fought him, he claimed that he was her brother. Unfortunately, Vindiktor died during their battle before Natasha could ascertain if he was telling the truth.

Natasha crossed Daredevil's path again when he attempted to slay Baby Karen, believing the infant to be the Antichrist. Natasha saved the child, but was badly beaten by Daredevil in the ensuing fight. Karen Page ultimately died protecting the child, and Matt went to Natasha to be consoled and to explain his earlier actions to her. Natasha reconciled with Matt, revealing that she still loved him, but noted that they had grown too far apart to become a couple again.

Recently, Natasha became aware of the presence of another Black Widow, a younger woman named Yelena Belova who had also been trained at the Red Room and who was obsessed with being the sole Black Widow. The two Black Widows first encountered each other while attempting to retrieve the Endless Fury bio weapon created in Rhapsistan, which exploded violently. Natasha later had herself and Yelena trade appearances through plastic surgery to help teach Yelena that her superiors considered her expendable.

Despite the presence of the other Black Widow, Natasha Romanoff remains one of the world's most accomplished hand-to-hand combatants, and is quite possibly the most skilled espionage agent alive, still in high demand with S.H.I.E.L.D., though the U.S. government recently attempted to turn her over to the government of Bulgaria in exchange for having the Viper released to the United States. Her most recent S.H.I.E.L.D. assignment has been to trace the whereabouts of the Tinkerer during a plot to investigate the financing of super-villains in America by foreign nations, possibly Latveria.



Art by J. Scott Campbell

#### PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

**Height:** 5'7"  
**Weight:** 131 lbs.  
**Eyes:** Blue  
**Hair:** Red-auburn (formerly dyed black)

#### POWERS & ABILITIES

**Superhuman Powers:** The Black Widow has received a variant of the Super-Soldier Serum which has enabled her to remain in peak physical condition for the past several decades, as well as slowing her aging process to some degree.

#### PARAPHENALIA

**Widow's Bracelets:** Bracelets that contain both the "widow's line" which fires her cable, and the "widow's bite" which releases electric bolts to stun her adversaries with a charge of up to 30,000 volts. Her gloves and boots are equipped with miniature suction cups which enable her to cling to surfaces. Her belt contains plastic explosives.

POWER GRID	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
INTELLIGENCE							
STRENGTH							
SPEED							
DURABILITY							
ENERGY PROJECTION							
FIGHTING SKILLS							



**REAL NAME:** Lester (last name unrevealed)

**KNOWN ALIASES:** Benjamin Pondexter, impersonated Daredevil

**IDENTITY:** Secret

**OCCUPATION:** Assassin, professional thief; former baseball pitcher, mercenary, extortionist

**CITIZENSHIP:** United States of America with a criminal record

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Unrevealed

**MARITAL STATUS:** Single

**KNOWN RELATIVES:** Unnamed father (deceased) and mother

**GROUP AFFILIATION:** Formerly allied with Eric Slaughter's and the Kingpin's criminal organizations, as well as the Kingpin's rival former agents

**EDUCATION:** Unrevealed (education beyond high school unlikely)

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #131 (1976)

**HISTORY:** Little is known about the early days of the boy who would grow up to become Bullseye. His mother had been a prostitute. As an eight-year-old, he lived with his alcoholic father in a trailer where he developed an early interest in archery. He drew targets on his trailer home and would practice for hours with his bow and arrow. In the midst of a drunken rage, his father one day told the boy to stop drawing targets on the trailer. After his father passed out, the boy drew a target on the man's head. He put a gun in his father's hand, pointed it at the target, and pulled the trigger.

While Bullseye was in high school, an unspecified event occurred that dramatically changed the teen's life. A talented baseball pitcher in his youth, Bullseye would go on to serve in a military action in Southeast Asia. During this time, he took unusual joy in killing the enemy, once killing an enemy soldier by throwing an empty gun at him. Upon his return to the United States, he decided to devote his career to his finely honed homicidal skills. In his early forays as an assassin he sometimes worked with the wisecracking mercenary known as Deadpool.

When he first emerged in New York City, Bullseye demanded \$100,000 to spare the life of millionaire Arthur Hunnicutt. When Hunnicutt refused to pay, Bullseye killed him with a pen. Daredevil confronted Bullseye, and the first of many battles between the two ensued. Bullseye led the hero to a circus at Madison Square Garden where the world could watch their fight on live television. Bullseye intended to prove his deadly abilities so that the next time he made such a threat he would be paid immediately and without question. Daredevil was unable to stop Bullseye there, but later defeated him when Bullseye targeted another millionaire, Henry Foster.

Out of prison, Bullseye was hired by Maxwell Glenn — who was being used by the Purple Man — to kill Matt Murdock and Foggy Nelson. Daredevil, however, foiled Bullseye's plot. Later, Bullseye took over a TV studio and threatened to kill hostages unless Daredevil fought him again on live television. Once again, Daredevil beat Bullseye.

Bullseye employed Eric Slaughter's men to attack Daredevil so he could film Daredevil and study his moves. Bullseye then defeated the Black Widow (Natasha) and held her hostage; Daredevil again defeated him. In prison, Bullseye was diagnosed with a brain tumor. His condition exacerbated his hatred of Daredevil, such that he began seeing everyone as Daredevil, each of whom became a target to be killed. Daredevil fought Bullseye, ultimately saving the assassin by pulling him out of the way of an oncoming train. The hero delivered Bullseye to a hospital where his tumor could be removed.

Nonetheless, Bullseye's hatred for the hero continued to fester and grow. Bullseye escaped and was hired by the Kingpin's former crime syndicate to kill the crimelord before he could turn over files on their activities to the authorities. Instead, the Kingpin convinced Bullseye that he had a future with him and Bullseye switched his allegiance, effectively ending the syndicate's plot. Bullseye was again defeated by Daredevil and imprisoned, and when he escaped he found his



Art by Mike Deodato Jr.



job as the Kingpin's chief assassin had been taken by Elektra. Bullseye tracked down Elektra and slit her throat with a playing card, then impaled her on her own sai, killing her. As Daredevil subsequently fought Bullseye, the two battled on wires suspended high over the street and Bullseye lost his balance. Daredevil caught him, but, unwilling to be saved by the hero once again, Bullseye pulled free and plummeted to the street below. He was paralyzed as a result of his injuries.

Kenji Oyama, Lord Dark Wind, had Bullseye abducted from the hospital and taken to Japan. There, Dark Wind repaired Bullseye's spine with the indestructible metal Adamantium. Dark Wind wanted Bullseye to be a part of his army, but the recovered marksman instead returned to New York City. Still furious over the death of Elektra, Daredevil soundly defeated Bullseye yet again upon his arrival.

When Bullseye next sought to work for the Kingpin, he found himself competing against the mercenary Deadpool for the job. Bullseye's unerring aim proved insufficient when Deadpool healed from his every attack, but Deadpool ended up losing out when he chose to save innocent people over killing Bullseye.

Bullseye worked alongside Bushwacker and an agent of the Hand in the Kingpin's plot to frame Parlan Farhoody as a terrorist, a plot foiled by Daredevil. Bullseye also worked for Wilson Fisk in successfully foiling the Red Skull's (Johann Schmidt) attempt to install his agent Crossbones as New York City's new drug kingpin.

When Daredevil returned to New York after a long absence, Bullseye manipulated the nearly amnesiac hero into trading identities with him. Bullseye enjoyed playing the hero, stealing from the rich and giving to the poor, but his own insanity caused him to believe himself to truly be Daredevil. When Murdock regained his memory, he wore Bullseye's outfit, defeated the madman, and reclaimed his own costume.

Bullseye was hired by Rosalie Carbone to assassinate the Punisher and rival crime lord Vito Vадucci. Though he failed, he did kill the vigilante Phalanx and used his armor in a second attempt on the Punisher. That effort was thwarted by the Punisher's enemy Stone Cold, who wished to kill the Punisher himself. Bullseye again targeted the Punisher shortly after the vigilante had survived a prison execution. This time the Punisher shot him through both hands, hoping to ruin his skills and eliminate him as a threat.

Learning that the Hand had succeeded in resurrecting Elektra, Bullseye studied her so that he could kill her again. He led her to the same parking garage where he had originally stabbed her. However, when he became distracted while recounting his youth, Elektra gained the upper hand and beat Bullseye unconscious.

Bullseye joined Deadpool on a mission in Greece, assassinating an unnamed man and was surprised at how well Deadpool was paid. The two crossed paths again when Bullseye was hired to assassinate Mercedes Wilson, a woman with ties to Deadpool's past. Deadpool stopped Bullseye by pulling him into the path of his own returning boomerang.

Bullseye was hired by Mysterio to retrieve a baby and to kill anyone helping to conceal the baby's whereabouts. Bullseye tracked the child to Sister Maggie's church where he proceeded to kill nearly everyone there, including Karen Page, using Daredevil's own billy club. Bullseye escaped with the baby, knowing he had now killed two women Daredevil had loved. Daredevil subsequently rescued the baby.

As the Kingpin began to rebuild his power base after returning to America, he sent Bullseye to kill some of the people involved in his downfall. Bullseye targeted Senator Stewart Ward, but was fought

off by Spider-Man. Bullseye was one of a group of assassins sent to try to kill Gambit by the mysterious New Sun, who sought to force the mutant to push his powers to the limit in order to increase them. With Daredevil's secret identity revealed in the tabloids and the Kingpin struggling to regain control of his city again after an assassination attempt, Bullseye offered to finish Daredevil once and for all. Bullseye waited for Daredevil to leave his apartment, reveling in the idea of killing Milla Donovan, another one of Matt Murdock's girlfriends. However, Daredevil returned and threw Bullseye out a window, after which he beat him savagely. Using a sharp rock, Daredevil carved a target into Bullseye's forehead, after which Daredevil had to be stopped from killing him. The assassin was taken to prison once more.

Escaping once again, Bullseye was blackmailed into retrieving the fabled Identity Disc alongside Deadpool, Juggernaut, Sabretooth, Sandman, and the Vulture.

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

**Height:** 6'0"

**Weight:** 200 lbs. (including adamantium implants)

**Eyes:** Blue

**Hair:** Blond

**Distinguishing Features:** Large bullseye scar on forehead.

## POWERS & ABILITIES

**Superhuman Powers:** Bullseye has had strips of adamantium fused to portions of his skeleton, including his spine. This is the hardest metal known to science. It can be cut with a special subatomic particle beam; otherwise, to all intents and purposes, it is virtually indestructible. Hence, Bullseye's adamantium-laced bones are virtually unbreakable. The presence of adamantium does not interfere with his bones' normal functions.

For a brief time, Bullseye could psychically sense the presence of Daredevil within a certain unknown range.

**Abilities:** Bullseye is an Olympic-level athlete, weight-lifter, and fighter. His innate ability to throw any projectile with great unerring accuracy and deadliness borders on the uncanny. Bullseye knows every pressure point and vulnerable spot on the human body and is able to turn virtually any object into a deadly weapon capable of incapacitating or killing an enemy. His accuracy when wielding an object the size and mass of a baseball is about one hundred feet. He can hurl such objects at around 105 miles per hour.

**Weapons:** Bullseye has carried guns, knives, whips, shurikens, darts, and sais. He has also carried plastic explosive charges in the compartments of his gloves. The list of common weapons he has turned into weapons includes pencils, golf balls, paper airplanes, paper clips, and even playing cards.

POWER GRID	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
INTELLIGENCE							
STRENGTH							
SPEED							
DURABILITY							
ENERGY PROJECTION							
FIGHTING SKILLS							



**REAL NAME:** Matthew Michael Murdock

**KNOWN ALIASES:** Jack Batlin, DD, Kingpin of Crime, Laurent LeVasseur, the Man without Fear, Michael "Mike" Murdock, Nameless One, Red Man

**IDENTITY:** Publicly revealed, though unconfirmed

**OCCUPATION:** Lawyer; former short order cook

**CITIZENSHIP:** United States of America with no criminal record

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** New York City

**MARITAL STATUS:** Married (disputed)

**KNOWN RELATIVES:** Jonathon Murdock (father, deceased), Margaret Grace Murdock (mother), Milla Donovan (wife, disputed)

**GROUP AFFILIATION:** Former member of the "Marvel Knights"; former partner of Black Widow (Natasha Romanoff)

**EDUCATION:** Columbia University (undergraduate), Harvard Law School

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #1 (1964)

**HISTORY:** Matt grew up as the son of "Battling Jack" Murdock, a boxer from Hell's Kitchen. Matt's mother left them when he was quite young, though his father told Matt that she had died. As Jack aged, he was forced to take work from the criminal known as the Fixer, and eventually the Fixer was able to force Jack to work as his enforcer by threatening Matt.

While Matt was a natural athlete and prankster, Jack sought to prevent him from entering his world of violence, instead hoping that Matt could gain an education that would take him away from Hell's Kitchen. He forced Matt to promise that he would study hard and never use his fists. When Jack struck Matt after he had gotten into a fight, Matt realized that rules and laws were needed to stop people from doing bad things. At that moment, Matt made the decision to become a lawyer. Matt's studious nature made him a target of bullies, who nicknamed him Daredevil when he wouldn't fight back. Matt worked out his frustrations at the gym, observed from the shadows by the man known as Stick.

Matt's life was changed forever the day he witnessed an out-of-control truck speeding toward a blind old man crossing the street. Matt pushed the old man out of the way, managing to avoid the truck, but a container fell off the vehicle and broke open, spilling a strange liquid into his eyes. Taken to a hospital, Matt soon learned that he was now blind. He nonetheless became progressively more aware of what occurred around him, to the point that all input to his remaining senses was painful. His pain was soothed by a nun (actually his long lost mother, though he would not realize this until much later), who told him that his enhanced senses were a blessing, though he must keep them secret.

As Matt struggled to adapt to his new way of life, he attempted to resume his training, but found that moves he had previously mastered now seemed impossible. It was at this time that he met Stick, a blind martial-arts master. Under Stick's harsh guidance, Matt came to understand his newly developed senses and blossomed into a formidable fighter.

Years later, Matt attended State University, eventually majoring in pre-Law. Living on campus, he met Foggy Nelson, who would quickly become his best friend. After some research, the two found that the program at Columbia was better suited to their goals, and they transferred there during their Freshman year. At Columbia, Matt met Elektra Natchios with whom he was quickly smitten. Though she initially dismissed him, Matt showed off his acrobatic skills and found in Elektra a kindred spirit. They quickly fell in love and for a year they were euphoric; Matt ignored Stick's orders to stay away from Elektra. Their romance, however, ended when Elektra's father was killed after being taken hostage by terrorists. Unable to deal with her emotions after her father's death, Elektra fled the country, leaving Matt heartbroken.

Matt and Foggy were both accepted into Columbia's Law School. After a few years however, Matt found that the school constantly reminded him of his lost love, and so he transferred again, this time





to Harvard Law School; Foggy accompanied him in transferring to Harvard. As the end of their final year approached, Matt and Foggy went to see Jack Murdock in a boxing match. Now more than forty years old, Battling Jack had been ordered by the Fixer to throw the fight. When Jack saw his son in the audience, though, he could not bring himself to lose. Instead, he mustered the strength to win the match, knocking out the savage "Crusher" Creel (a.k.a. Rocky Davis). Later that night, a group of the Fixer's men ambushed Jack in an alley, killing him.

Devastated by the loss of his father, Matt was enraged when the legal system failed to bring the Fixer to justice—possibly due to a combination of an expensive lawyer and a bribed judge. Matt fulfilled his promise to his father by graduating Summa Cum Laude from Law School as class Valedictorian, after which he took it upon himself to seek justice. Making a red and yellow costume out of Battling Jack's boxing robe, Matt took the nickname with which he had been taunted as a child and turned it into a badge of honor. As Daredevil, Matt chased down and savagely beat the members of the Fixer's gang. He pursued the Fixer himself into a subway where the terrified criminal had a heart attack and died. Matt followed the last of the gang into a brothel, pursuing him sans costume; the prostitutes, mistaking his intent, attacked him. Panicking, Matt fought back, inadvertently kicking one of the girls out a window. Believing the girl dead, Matt was overcome with regret. At the same time, Stick decided that Matt was too emotional and undisciplined, and he severed contact with the young man.

Seeking to leave his troubled past behind, Matt joined the Boston firm of Sussman and Castro, but when he was sent back to New York on a job months later, he began to recall many of the fond memories as well. After saving a young orphan girl named Mickie from agents of the Kingpin, Matt realized he had found his second purpose in life. Reuniting with Foggy, they formed the law firm of Nelson & Murdock (he took the second name after losing a coin toss) on 58th Street. He vowed he would serve the legal system as best he could as lawyer Matt Murdock, but those the law could not reach would have to face him as Daredevil.

Foggy hired the young and beautiful Karen Page as their secretary, and both men were instantly smitten with her. Matt was hired as the official lawyer for the Fantastic Four. Daredevil's earliest foes included Electro, the Owl, the Circus of Crime (against whom he assisted Spider-Man, eventually one of his greatest allies), Purple Man, the Matador, and Mr. Fear. Karen, who had become more interested in Daredevil than Matt, suggested to the hero that a red costume would be more appropriate than his current one.

Matt was contacted by Karl Kruger, the Duke of the European nation Lichtenbad, a law school classmate, who invited him to come to his country where specialist Dr. Van Eyck might be able to restore his vision. This proved to be part of Kruger's plot to abduct and control the great thinkers of the world. Dr. Van Eyck sacrificed his life dismantling Kruger's bomb.

Daredevil's activities continued against the likes of the Stilt-Man, the Organizer and the Ani-Men, the Plunderer (during which time he first lost his powers), the Ox, the Masked Marauder, the Gladiator, and Leap-Frog. Daredevil's first identity crisis came about after Spider-Man made claims that Daredevil was Matt Murdock, strengthening the suspicions of both Karen and Foggy. To refute these claims, Matt established the false alias of free spirit Mike Murdock, whom he alleged was his twin brother and Daredevil's true self.

During a subsequent struggle with the Exterminator and the Ani-Men, Daredevil faked his death (and thus the death of Mike Murdock) to eliminate the troubles caused by pretending to exist as three different people. When he next appeared, in conflict with the Jester, Daredevil pretended to be a new hero, taking on the role of his dead predecessor.

Meanwhile, Karen and Matt had fallen in love, but Karen had grown tired of waiting for Matt to propose to her. Matt left the law firm due to his inability to commit to their relationship. In a subsequent struggle with "Starr" Saxon, the criminal learned Daredevil's true identity, which was also learned by the Black Panther. Hoping to eliminate danger to his friends, Matt Murdock faked his own death



**Art by David Ross**



in an airplane explosion. After the apparent death of Saxon (now Mr. Fear), Daredevil visited the grieving Karen Page and revealed his true identity to her. He then publicly revealed his survival, after which Foggy, now District Attorney, named Matt his special assistant. Matt then proposed to Karen; she agreed to marry him, but only if he would retire as Daredevil. However, he found he could not stand by when innocents were threatened. Karen left him, moving to Los Angeles to get away.

Matt eventually followed Karen to Los Angeles, but he returned to New York to allow her to decide between him and her hopeful film career. Daredevil was soon targeted by the mysterious Mr. Kline, actually a robot from the future who sought to alter Matt Murdock's future as part of a mission to prevent events in his own timeline. Kline hired the Owl to capture Daredevil, but the Owl nearly killed Daredevil instead. The hero was saved by Natasha Romanoff, the Black Widow, leading to an alliance between the two. Matt bumped into Karen and the two were briefly engaged, but they quickly broke up again; Matt then began a relationship with the Black Widow.

Daredevil and the Black Widow moved out to San Francisco where he was recruited by his old classmate Larry Cranston to join the law firm of Broderick, Sloan, & Cranston. However, Cranston had become the new Mr. Fear and learned Daredevil's identity, though he soon fell to his seeming death when the two fought. Shortly thereafter, a reporter pointed out that Murdock and Daredevil had simultaneously arrived in San Francisco; Matt had the Black Panther impersonate Daredevil, thus eliminating the suspicion of Murdock being the masked super hero.

Daredevil and the Widow became involved with Damon Dran, who sought out the Globe of Power from the mysterious government Project: Four which transformed him into the powerful Indestructible Man before meeting defeat. Shortly thereafter the cosmic heroine Moondragon returned to Earth to prepare for war against the mad Eternal of Titan, Thanos. Moondragon allied herself with Matt's senior partner, Kerwin J. Broderick, who had a sterling reputation. Broderick, however, proved to be a megalomaniac, and he managed to usurp Moondragon's Titanian technology, empowering the Dark Messiah and Disciples of Doom, as well as Angar the Screamer, before creating the monstrous earth-creature Terrex into which he infused his own life. When Daredevil and his allies destroyed Terrex, Broderick died as well. Matt eventually realized that a relationship between him and the Widow was not meant to be, and he left both her and the remnants of his law firm, returning to New York.

Matt eventually started dating Heather Glenn, the daughter of industrialist Maxwell Glenn. Though he developed true feelings for her, her airheaded nature proved a hindrance to their relationship. Matt and Foggy opened Storefront Legal Services, though this eventually failed and they reopened Nelson & Murdock. When reporter Ben Urich discovered Daredevil's true identity, the hero initially tried to deny it, but finally admitted the truth, finding relief in having someone to confide in. The two would retain a close relationship over the years.

Daredevil had his first face-to-face encounter with the Kingpin during his return to power after an aborted attempt to retire, and he soon after encountered his former lover Elektra, now a ninja assassin. Around this time, Daredevil lost his radar sense and sought out Stick to help regain it. Daredevil rescued the Kingpin's wife, Vanessa, from the King of the Sewers, using her as leverage to force the Kingpin to remove from power his pawn, newly elected mayor Randolph Cherryh. When Bullseye murdered Elektra, Daredevil sought revenge; Bullseye was crippled in their subsequent struggle. Stick's order, the Chaste, drew Daredevil into another encounter with their rivals, the Hand. During this time Daredevil

managed to purify Elektra's spirit, after which the Chaste's Stone resurrected her; Matt would not learn she was alive until much later.

Around this time, Daredevil encountered a series of people from his childhood, including the bully Stymie Schmidt (Matt was forced to step down as his lawyer due to subconsciously sabotaging his case), former friend Johnny Squarejohn (who had become a criminal, but sacrificed his own life to save Daredevil after realizing he was Matt), and Crimson Ash (who had become a fire-obsessed arsonist after a childhood prank led to her mother's dying in flames; Daredevil helped Ash towards redemption).

After a series of struggles with the jungle savage turned would-be crime lord, Micah Synn, Matt broke up with Heather Glenn, who subsequently committed suicide. Matt briefly regained his sight via the virtually omnipotent Beyonder, after which he and Spider-Man finally admitted their secret identities to each other during a struggle against the crazed Sin-Eater, markedly strengthening their friendship. Despite this, Matt was devastated by Heather's suicide, paving the way for one of his darkest periods. Karen Page had become a drug addict, and she sold Daredevil's secret identity for a fix. This information made its way to the Kingpin, who used it to ruin his old enemy. Matt's law license was revoked, his bank accounts were frozen, and his apartment was blown up. Recognizing his responsibility, Matt attacked the Kingpin, who savagely beat him and then attempted to have him killed. Narrowly escaping, Matt was discovered by Sister Maggie, who proved to be his long-lost mother.

Eventually recovering, Matt made his peace with the rehabilitated Karen, and he started a free legal clinic after working briefly as a short order cook. When Matt's clinic thwarted some illegal operations of the Kingpin, the crimelord attempted to crush him anew. The Kingpin sent Typhoid Mary after him; she seduced and then nearly killed him. Though he survived, Daredevil, severely disillusioned, left New York and traveled the country. In the process he encountered the genetically engineered woman Number Nine, the killer robot Ultron, and the demons Blackheart and Mephisto.

Returning to New York, Daredevil rebuilt his life, sending Typhoid Mary to a mental institution, toppling the Kingpin from power, regaining his law license, and re-establishing the firm of Nelson & Murdock, now in World Wide Plaza. However, his happiness was short-lived, as reporter Sara Harrington stole Ben Urich's files and sold Daredevil's identity to a tabloid. In a complex struggle, Matt faked his death by using the body of a demonic doppelganger, Hellspawn, and About Face, a virus which allowed its host to alter their form. Matt then assumed the identity of Jack Batlin (an homage to his father) and pretended to be a new Daredevil as well, clothed in a new, more durable costume patterned in red and gray.

After overcoming his inner demons, Matt rediscovered his purpose in life and emerged from his self-imposed exile. The tabloid accusations having been discredited, Matt joined with Foggy and Rosalind Sharpe, Foggy's mother, to form a new law firm.

After weathering a series of assaults at the hands of Mr. Fear and others, Daredevil was recruited into a complicated plot. S.H.I.E.L.D. agent Harlan secretly convinced Daredevil to go undercover to stop the Kingpin, who had obtained knowledge of his agency's undercover operatives, from selling this information to establish a unified European crime organization network with himself in charge. As part of Operation: Flying Blind, Daredevil underwent physical modification and psychic rewiring so that not even a telepath could uncover him. This radically altered his appearance, restored his vision, and suppressed his memories and personality, replacing them with that of the French artist Laurent LeVasseur. When Harlan was killed in a freak car accident, Daredevil was left trapped as LeVasseur, with no one else knowing who or where he was.



Nonetheless, LeVasseur was drawn into the Kingpin's plot, where his memories were inadvertently restored by the Kingpin's agent Synapse. Daredevil foiled the plot, after which his altered appearance and abilities soon faded.

The criminal special effects master Mysterio learned that he was dying of cancer and wanted to go out with a bang. Purchasing the knowledge of Daredevil's secret identity from the Kingpin, he embarked on an intricate plot targeting the hero. He faked a test showing that Karen Page had contracted HIV, framed Foggy for murder, and drugged Daredevil to help convince him that a small infant was the Antichrist. The Black Widow stopped Daredevil from killing the child, after which he eventually came to his senses. However, he was unable to stop Mysterio's agent Bullseye from killing Karen. Recovering from this trauma, Daredevil defeated Mysterio and saved the baby, who was later revealed to be the reincarnation of Stick. Matt used Karen's inheritance to rebuild Nelson & Murdock on the grounds of Matt's old brownstone.

Shortly thereafter, Daredevil encountered the deaf adventurer Echo who, while attracted to Murdock, was duped into attacking Daredevil by the Kingpin. Echo discovered it was not Daredevil who had killed her father but actually the Kingpin; in revenge, Echo shot the Kingpin in the face, blinding him. Daredevil then investigated the disappearance of a new Leap-Frog (Lange), eventually discovering that the abusive criminal had been electrocuted by his own son, Timmy, to stop him from killing Daredevil.

Nelson & Murdock faced a conflict of interests when wealthy philanthropist Samuel Griggs attempted to sue Daredevil for causing property damage to his house in a recent struggle. This case brought Daredevil back into contact with a pair of retired foes: the Jester, who pretended to commit a crime so that he could serve Daredevil some legal papers, and Manuel Eloganto, formerly the Matador, who was set up as the mastermind behind the accusations against Daredevil. However, the true culprit proved to be the Ringmaster, head of the Circus of Crime, who orchestrated the whole deal just to test his new powers of mesmerism. Spider-Man agreed to impersonate Daredevil to prove to the court that anyone might have impersonated Daredevil, but then actor Terrence Hillman appeared in the courtroom, claiming to have been the original Daredevil and wearing his costume. Hillman confessed to Griggs' false accusations; with Daredevil's identity in question, the case was thrown out. Hillman made a healthy profit selling his "memoirs."

Daredevil teamed with Spider-Man in opposing a plot of the Gang of Four—Copperhead, the new Gladiator, Owl, and Stilt-Man—allegedly

to overthrow the Kingpin. However, Copperhead was revealed to be a demonic creature whose true goal was to offer Daredevil's soul to his master in order to regain his own soul. Ultimately, the Owl seemingly sacrificed himself in Daredevil's place, hoping to attain redemption for his life of crime.

Soon after this, up-and-coming criminal Sammy Silke arranged an ambush on the Kingpin that left the crimelord near death. The Kingpin's wife, Vanessa, led his agents to take out Silke's allies, but Silke himself escaped death, saving himself by surrendering information to the FBI, including Daredevil's secret identity, which he had learned from men in the Kingpin's inner circle. Agent Henry Dobbs sold Daredevil's identity to the Daily Globe, which printed it as a front page story.

Matt publicly and vehemently denied he was Daredevil, even going so far as to sue the Globe's president for libel. Around this time he began dating Milla Donovan. Matt failed to vindicate the retired super hero the White Tiger who had been framed for murder, leading to the Tiger's subsequent death. After Daredevil defeated the Owl's plot to take over as the new crime lord of New York, the Kingpin returned, healed from all of his recent injuries and ready to reclaim his empire. With the aid of his "bodyguards" Jessica Jones and Cage, Daredevil defeated Typhoid Mary, who had been sent by Fisk. He also defeated the Kingpin's second assassin, Bullseye, stopping him from making Milla the third girlfriend of Daredevil to meet death at his hands. Driven to frenzy, Daredevil confronted and definitively defeated the Kingpin, leaving him unconscious in front of the patrons of Josie's Bar; Matt then declared himself the new Kingpin.

Still reeling from the recent dramatic changes in his life, Matt secretly married Milla, after which he cemented his role as the Kingpin, fighting off an assassination attempt by the Japanese mobsters, the Yakuza. However, Milla left Matt after Ben Urich told her that Matt had suffered a mental breakdown due to events since Karen Page's death, and that his marriage to her was a result of that breakdown.

Recently, Daredevil has assisted the Black Widow when the U.S. government sought to turn her over to another country in exchange for the Viper (Madame Hydra). Though the Widow sought to rekindle their relationship, Daredevil retained his feelings for Milla and was reluctant to give up on their relationship. In addition, other criminals, such as Jigsaw, mistook Daredevil's defeat of the Kingpin as his becoming the new crimelord. Murdock continues to struggle to cope with his public identity, the consequences of toppling the Kingpin, and his desire to find happiness and love in his tumultuous life.



Art by Tim Sale



## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

**Height:** 6'0"

**Weight:** 200 lbs.

**Eyes:** Blue

**Hair:** Red

**Distinguishing Features:** Matt Murdock is blind.

## POWERS & ABILITIES

**Superhuman Powers:** Daredevil has four superhuman senses. His sense of touch is so acute that his finger can feel the faint impressions of ink on a printed page, allowing him to read by touch. The rest of his skin is equally sensitive, enabling him by concentration to feel minute temperature and pressure changes in the atmosphere around him. Even with his senses of smell and hearing blocked, he can feel the presence of a person standing five feet away from him simply by his or her body heat and disturbance of air.

Daredevil's sense of smell is so acute that he can distinguish between identical twins at twenty feet by minute differences in smell. He can detect odors of an atmospheric concentration of thirty parts per million. Further, his ability to remember smells enables him to identify any person he has spent at least five minutes with by smell alone, no matter how he or she might try to camouflage his or her natural odor. His powers of concentration are such that he can focus upon a single person's smell and follow it through a crowd of people at a distance of fifty feet.

Daredevil's sense of hearing enables him to detect an acoustic pressure change of 1 decibel at a pressure level of 7 decibels (whereas the lowest threshold for average human hearing is 20 decibels). He can hear a person's heartbeat at a distance of over twenty feet, or people whispering on the other side of a standard soundproofed wall. Daredevil can tell whether a person is lying by listening to changes in his heartbeat (though he can be fooled by a pacemaker or those able to control their own heartbeat), and can identify people by the specific patterns of their heartbeats. Through practice, Daredevil is able to control his hearing acuity, mentally blocking out specific sounds like his own breathing and heartbeat, all ambient sounds to a normal human level of perception, or all sounds but a particular sound he is concentrating upon. If taken by surprise, Daredevil can suffer more distress from a painfully loud sound than an ordinary human would. Also, beyond a certain size, crowds of people create too many sensory impressions for him to easily sort through.

Daredevil's sense of taste enables him to detect the number of grains of salt on a pretzel. His ability to remember tastes enables him to determine every ingredient of a food or drink he tastes, as long as there are at least 20 milligrams of that substance present.

Daredevil can also sense the proximity and arrangement of objects about himself. According to one theory, Daredevil's "radar sense" functions via his brain's generation of energy within a certain portion of the electromagnetic spectrum. The signal emanates from sending regions of his brain, after which it travels outward, bounces off objects around him, and returns to receiving regions of his brain. Another theory is that this sense functions more closely to sonar in which Daredevil hears the faint echoes of sounds as they bounce off nearby objects. His sense may operate by a combination of these

techniques or by other, unknown, means. His "radar sense" varies from the "proximity sense" of Stick and the Chaste, which is more of a mystical discipline.

In any event, via this ability, Daredevil synthesizes a very close analogue of three-dimensional human sight. Its resolution is not very fine, probably on the order of several feet at a distance of one hundred feet. By repositioning his head and adding input from his other senses, Daredevil is able to resolve the image of an average flagpole (three-inch cylinder) at a distance of over 80 feet.

Daredevil possesses some degree of ninja training, enabling him to control his autonomic functions such as breathing and blood flow to a certain degree. He also can communicate telepathically with those of similar training, such as the Chaste.

**Acrobatics:** Daredevil is an Olympic level athlete and gymnast, possessing the acrobatic ability of a circus performer, the pugilistic skills of a heavyweight prizefighter, as well as phenomenal speed, endurance, and reflexes. Daredevil's fighting style is unique, incorporating movements and blows from many disciplines, including boxing, Ninjitsu, Judo, and various other martial arts.

Matt Murdock is a highly skilled attorney, with extensive knowledge of the American legal system.

## PARAPHERNALIA

**Weapons:** Daredevil carries a Billy Club; as Matt Murdock, he carries it disguised as a blind man's cane. The cane separates into two parts. The lower section contains a metal shaft and can be used as a weighted fighting baton. Daredevil formerly used the top section as a grappling hook, which contained a long cable.

**Costume:** Daredevil wears a stretch fabric (Lycra) costume, woven with steel fibers, and soft leather boots and gloves. For a time, he briefly wore a costume composed of biomimetic materials, woven in the code of orb-weaver spiders, with a bricklike crystal pattern in abalone shell and twisted wire strands. This costume was gray and red, and protected him from both sharp and blunt trauma.

**Weaknesses:** Daredevil's superhuman senses render him extraordinarily vulnerable to excessive sound, odors, etc., which can be incapacitating to him. He is unable to discern pictures or video images, and he can only guess at colors based on the amount of heat they are absorbing or reflecting.





# MILLA DONOVAN

**REAL NAME:** Milla Donovan

**KNOWN ALIASES:** None

**IDENTITY:** Publicly known

**OCCUPATION:** Housing employee, exact position unrevealed

**CITIZENSHIP:** United States citizen with no criminal record

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Presumably Hell's Kitchen, New York City, NY

**MARITAL STATUS:** Married, separated

**KNOWN RELATIVES:** Matt Murdock (a.k.a. Daredevil, husband, disputed)

**GROUP AFFILIATION:** Hell's Kitchen Housing Commission

**EDUCATION:** College degree

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Daredevil Vol. 2 #41 (2003)

**HISTORY:** A blind employee of the Hell's Kitchen Housing Commission, Milla Donovan first met Daredevil when she was nearly run down by a truck fleeing the police. The hero pushed her out of the way, saving her life. Unable to get Daredevil out of her mind following the encounter, she learned of reports that Daredevil was actually attorney Matt Murdock and, encouraged by her friend and co-worker Lori, she visited Murdock's law firm, where, based on Murdock's voice, she confirmed to herself that the two men were one and the same. Intrigued by Milla, Matt began dating her, only for their first date to be disrupted by FBI investigations into a murder committed by the Owl, whom Daredevil soon defeated. Although she and Lori admired his heroism, Milla soon learned the dangers of associating with Matt, as she was present when Typhoid attacked the hero and was later nearly killed by Bullseye. Nevertheless, she persevered in the relationship, and Matt respected her courage and commitment.

Months later, following Daredevil's declaration of himself as "Kingpin" of Hell's Kitchen, Matt and Milla secretly married. Some time after this, when members of the Japanese crime family known as the Yakuza attacked Matt, he sent Milla to contact reporter Ben Urich, hoping that he could ensure her safety. When Matt went missing after the battle, Milla appealed to Ben to help find him. Ben located Matt at a secret hospital facility for super-heroes, where he confronted Matt with the idea that the death of Karen Page had driven Matt to a nervous breakdown, resulting in much of his atypical behavior, including his marriage to Milla. Disturbed by the notion, Milla came to agree with Ben's analysis and, unable to cope with these emotions, ultimately left Matt. Her current activities are unrevealed.

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

**Height:** 5' 8"

**Weight:** 130 lbs.

**Eyes:** White

**Hair:** Black

## POWERS & ABILITIES:

**Strength Level:** Milla Donovan possesses the normal human strength of a woman of her age, height, and build who engages in moderate regular exercise.

**Disruptive Powers:** None

**Limitations:** Milla Donovan has been blind since birth.

## POWER GRID

INTELLIGENCE

STRENGTH

SPEED

DURABILITY

ENERGY PROJECTION

FIGHTING SKILLS

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

Art by Alex Maleev



**HISTORY:** Deserted by her mother at an early age, Maya Lopez was diagnosed as learning disabled but, after she demonstrated her ability to duplicate musical performances, her teachers realized that she was deaf. When she was nine, Maya's father, a Cheyenne gangster, was killed by his partner in crime, the Kingpin, who then became her guardian. Fisk, hoping to one day use her talents, subtly manipulated her into learning fighting skills as well as the performance arts, and she excelled in both. She remained dedicated to Fisk as her father figure.

At twenty-nine, the Kingpin sent her to visit attorney Matt Murdock, who was investigating Fisk's illegal activities; believing Fisk above reproach, Maya sought to defend his reputation. Murdock's super-senses detected Maya's sincerity, and the two became attracted to one another. Fisk subsequently claimed that it was Daredevil who had murdered her father. Vowing revenge, Maya studied a videotaped battle between Daredevil and Bullseye, training until she could duplicate both men's moves. Following a date with Murdock, Maya attacked Daredevil. After a prolonged battle, Maya gained the advantage and was prepared to shoot Daredevil, but the presence of several children stayed her hand.

Later, when the Kingpin was erroneously reported dead, Maya presumed Daredevil responsible and again attacked him. However, during the course of their battle, she recognized a wound on Daredevil's face which corresponded with one on Murdock. Recognizing that Daredevil was innocent, she realized Fisk had killed her father. Enraged, she confronted Fisk and shot him point blank in the face. Greatly disturbed, Maya fled the US and traveled the world, hoping to restructure her psyche.

Maya subsequently returned to New York City, only to learn Daredevil was now involved with someone else. A confrontation with the recovered Kingpin proved equally unsatisfying, so she visited the Chief, a wise friend of her father's and underwent a vision quest in hope of calming her troubled spirit, and an encounter with the mutant Wolverine helped her make peace with her past. Maya has since returned to performance art and again lives in New York.

**REAL NAME:** Maya Lopez

**KNOWN ALIASES:** Crazy Horse

**IDENTITY:** Secret

**OCCUPATION:** Performance artist

**CITIZENSHIP:** U.S. citizen with no criminal record

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Unrevealed

**MARITAL STATUS:** Single

**KNOWN RELATIVES:** William "Crazy Horse" Lincoln (father, deceased); Ms. Lopez (mother, status unrevealed)

**GROUP AFFILIATION:** Former operative of the Kingpin

**EDUCATION:** Unrevealed, presumed college degree

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Daredevil Vol. 2 #9 (1999)



#### PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

**Height:** 5' 9"  
**Weight:** 125 lbs.  
**Hair:** Brown  
**Eyes:** Black

#### POWERS & ABILITIES

**Superhuman Imitation:** Echo can duplicate any physical action that she sees, ranging from musical performance and ballet to martial arts and weapon usage. Echo is able to mimic the fighting styles of others much stronger than herself. Echo is a highly talented pianist, music composer, artist, ballet dancer, boxer, martial artist, and marksman. In combat she has wielded conventional pistols, guns that fire poisonous flechettes, a billy club, and shuriken (throwing stars).

#### POWER GRID 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

**INTELLIGENCE**

**STRENGTH**

**SPEED**

**DURABILITY**

**ENERGY PROJECTION**

**FIGHTING SKILLS**



# ELEKTRA

**REAL NAME:** Elektra Natchios

**KNOWN ALIASES:** Little Amber, Epsilon, Perfect Death; impersonated Chastity McBryde and Sandy Newton; numerous aliases throughout mercenary career

**IDENTITY:** Existence unknown to the public at large

**OCCUPATION:** Mercenary assassin; former student and dancer

**CITIZENSHIP:** Expatriated Greek citizen

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** An unspecified island near the Aegean Sea

**MARITAL STATUS:** Single

**KNOWN RELATIVES:** Hugo Kostas Natchios (father, deceased), Christina (mother, deceased), Orestez (brother), Demetrios (paternal uncle), Alexia (paternal aunt by marriage)

**GROUP AFFILIATION:** Former member of the Hand; former apprentice of the Chaste, led own order

**EDUCATION:** Studied political science at Columbia University, New York City

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #168 (1981)

**HISTORY:** Elektra's father, Hugo, was a young Greek ambassador, embarrassed by his wife's affection towards other men. When Christina became pregnant, both Hugo and his son, Orestez, a young man at the time, suspected that Hugo was not the father. Infuriated, Orestez hired men to kill Christina. Shortly before noon, August 13th, a helicopter flew over the vacationing Hugo and Christina, firing down upon them. Though Christina was the target of the attack, Hugo was shot as well. Hugo recovered, but Christina only survived long enough to give birth to her daughter. After medical tests proved that he was the father after all, Hugo accepted the baby, naming her Elektra. Guilt over injuring his father drove Orestez away from his family.

Elektra attended parochial school where, despite her high intelligence, she received poor grades. She spent much time under psychiatric evaluation. At the age of nine, her dog Agamemnon was slain by men who had planned to assault her. Elektra was saved by Orestez, now a grown man who had developed into a skilled martial artist. The very next day, Elektra began martial arts training under a Japanese sensei, achieving a black belt by age twelve.

While living in the United States with her father, she attended Columbia University, carefully watched over by bodyguards Athos and Stavros. At the age of nineteen she met Matt Murdock; the two found they shared a thirst for danger and adventure. Because of her father's overprotective nature, Elektra and Matt were forced to meet in secret, their clandestine meetings only serving to fuel their passions. Elektra was plagued by dark voices that spurred her to violence, which she was able to contain only by taking out her impulses on criminals that she felt deserved punishment.

A year later, Elektra and her father were held hostage in a building on campus. A disguised Matt defeated the terrorists with Elektra's help, but a police officer outside the building mistook Hugo Natchios for one of the terrorists and shot him dead. Unable to bear the pain of the loss, and fearing that she would be overwhelmed by her own dark voices, Elektra fled, leaving behind a heartbroken Matt. Before she left the United States, she tracked down and confronted the man who had arranged the assault that led to her father's death. Despite her skills, Elektra was defeated by the man and his bodyguard, but she was saved by a sai hurled from the shadows. Elektra believed that the sai was thrown by Stick, who had appeared and advised her in the past, but it was actually hurled by an agent of the Hand. Impressed by the weapon, Elektra decided to make it her own.

Searching for meaning in her life, Elektra made her way to Japan. Her sensei knew even his best efforts could not help Elektra, so he suggested she seek out the Chaste, a clan of warriors led by Stick. Elektra excelled at all disciplines and hoped to become the eighth member of the order. However, Stick recognized the pain and hatred that still burned within her. To preserve the group's purity, he forced Elektra to leave the Chaste.

Determined to prove her worthiness, Elektra planned to infiltrate the Hand, the ninja cult that had been at war with the Chaste for many years, and defeat them from within. The Hand proposed a test, tricking Elektra into killing her former sensei. Elektra's already fragile psyche was shattered. The Hand took advantage of her state of mind and trained her to become one of their greatest warriors. Still, they were unable to completely turn her to their ways. Elektra broke free of their control and fled Japan, but she was forever tainted by the darkness of the Hand.



Art by Greg Horn



Elektra became an assassin-for-hire, selling herself to the highest bidder. She was hired to kill Carlos Huevos, the dictator of San Concepcion, a small South American country. Her success brought her to the attention of S.H.I.E.L.D. (Supreme Headquarters International Espionage Law-enforcement Division), which sent two agents—John Garrett and Arthur Perry—to determine the assassin's identity. The United States sent its own ambassador, Reich, upon whom Elektra discovered the stench of the Beast, the powerful being that controlled the Hand.

Elektra slew Reich, only to discover that the Beast had switched hosts and now possessed Ken Wind, a U.S. presidential candidate. Elektra used her skills to manipulate Garrett into assisting her, managing to thwart S.H.I.E.L.D. and to kill Wind, but Garrett was wounded in the process. To ease his pain, Elektra made Garrett believe he had switched bodies with Wind and become president. As Elektra escaped, Garrett was taken back to S.H.I.E.L.D., his dream preserved while he lay in stasis.

Elektra was hired to stop a man from killing von Eisenbluth, a Nazi war criminal who had experimented on and tortured the man's family. Elektra distracted the man, and the elderly, crippled von Eisenbluth shot him dead. However, after hearing von Eisenbluth's anti-Semitic remarks, Elektra killed him herself.

Years later, Elektra accepted a contract in New York City, finally crossing paths with Daredevil, whom she quickly learned was Matt Murdock. Matt vehemently disapproved of Elektra's profession while Elektra refused to abandon her chosen way of life. Lovers became enemies, and enemies became fierce combatants. The two still cared deeply for each other, but as far as Elektra was concerned, their love had been murdered along with her father.

The Kingpin hired Elektra as his chief assassin, eventually sending her to kill Franklin "Foggy" Nelson. When Foggy recognized her as Matt's old girlfriend, though, she could not bring herself to complete the assignment. Bullseye, seeking to regain his position as the Kingpin's chief assassin, ambushed Elektra. After an epic battle, Bullseye impaled Elektra on one of her own sais. Mortally wounded, Elektra crawled to Matt's apartment. She died in her former lover's arms.

However, after losing their master warrior Kirigi in battle, the Hand decided that resurrecting Elektra would afford them an edge in their ongoing battle with the Chaste. They exhumed her body and were in the midst of a resurrection ceremony when Daredevil, the Black Widow and Stone (a member of the Chaste) arrived and stopped them. During the battle, Daredevil tried to complete the resurrection using techniques he once saw Slick employ. He believed he was unsuccessful, but Stone saw that Daredevil had somehow cleansed Elektra's soul, purifying her spirit. He secretly took Elektra's body back to the Chaste's mountain retreat to complete the resurrection process.

Now alive and pure once more, Elektra became a member of the Chaste, remaining on their mountain for years. Later, the ninja clan known as the Snakeroot stole John Garrett from S.H.I.E.L.D. From his mind and memories they distilled Elektra's dark essence, using it to create their own warrior, Erynys. Stone and Elektra left the mountain retreat and managed to defeat Erynys while she was battling Daredevil. In the process, however, the dark essence returned to Elektra. Because she was again impure, the Chaste could not let Elektra return to their order.

Returning to the only career she knew, Elektra was hired by a man named Kiefer to kill scientist Daniel Connor. She did so successfully, but the murder was witnessed by Connor's young teenage daughter, Avery. Taking the girl with her, Elektra learned that Avery had actually been genetically engineered from Wolverine's DNA, and

that her parents had been charting her progress. When Avery's parents attempted to escape their superior, Kiefer, had ordered their deaths. With the aid of Wolverine, Elektra slew Kiefer and arranged for Avery and her repentant mother, Veronica, to establish new lives, hidden from further intrusions.

Tekagi, who had worked closely with Elektra during her time with the Hand, became the new leader of the Snakeroot. Tekagi had to purify his clan's sword, Sakki, with the blood of three innocent victims to regain the power the group once held. Elektra learned of the Snakeroot's plans and set out to form her own order, or Ryu, made up of her recruits Impact, Lynch, Masquerade, Niko, Salvo, and Target. Elektra's "Army of Stealth" attempted to stop the Snakeroot from claiming its targets—Father Peter Nova, Navajo activist Singer Tsilkali, and Nobel Peace Prize winner Aaron Sokoto. Elektra's order did not fare well, and all her new recruits died in battle. Fighting alone, Elektra saved the Snakeroot's final target and killed Tekagi with the clan's sword, essentially destroying the Snakeroot in the process.

Elektra helped Wolverine recover from his descent into bestial madness after Magneto tore the Adamantium metal from his body. She found camaraderie with dance instructor Konrad Weiss, and in the Dojo of King Lau and McKinley Stewart (who became her lover). She was targeted again by Bullseye, but this time she defeated him. She acted as guardian to young Nina McCabe after her father was killed. Elektra also briefly became tangled in the plot of the being known only as the Architect, last of the mysterious Shining Ones. She fought a string of would-be assassins, as well as the Four Winds, the American Samurai, the Silencer, and Kuroyama, a warrior of the Hand, who slew Nina and resurrected her as one of their own.

Once more an assassin-for-hire, Elektra was hired by the next incarnation of S.H.I.E.L.D. (Strategic Hazard Intervention Espionage Logistics Directorate) to kill Saddam Abed Dasam, the leader of Iraq, and retrieve a box in his possession. She succeeded in retrieving the box's contents — the powerful Scorpio Key — but refused to hand it over to anyone, especially S.H.I.E.L.D. Instead, Elektra captured the police officer responsible for killing her father years before. Because the two shared an intimate bond of tragedy, she entrusted the box and the key that it held to him, knowing that he would keep it safe.

After assisting sexual assault victim Ione Katamides in gaining vengeance on her attackers, Elektra encountered the Hand once again. Led by Takashi, the Hand sought to use basketball star and political hopeful Lyle Crawford. Elektra was guided to oppose this by the spirit of Lyle's dead father, jazz musician "Black Cat" Buddy Crawford, who had been killed by the Hand years before. Ultimately, Elektra decapitated Lyle before he could be transformed into the Earthly incarnation of the Hand's Beast.

Elektra encountered Jeremy Locke, a member of the Coalition, a group of people who sought revenge against her for killing their loved ones. Managing to drug and capture Elektra, Locke attempted to make her understand the consequences of her actions and abandon her long cycle of violence. The rest of the Coalition sought to kill Elektra, but she slew most of them instead. However, Locke had successfully reached Elektra, and she returned to him for help. Locke's assistant, Carson, recruited his friend, the female sensei Drake, to help Elektra break her addiction to violence. Upon their first meeting, Drake easily bested Elektra in a quick sparring match. Through Drake's training, Elektra learned her proper path. For once, her life had meaning.

The Hand, meanwhile, was angered that someone had been influencing Elektra whom they still considered to be their warrior. They slew the remaining members of the Coalition, except Locke, whom they kidnapped. After the Hand poisoned and killed Drake,





Art by Bill Slekewicz

Elektra agreed to meet the Hand to save Locke. To kill the final agent of the Hand, Elektra plunged her sword into him straight through Locke, killing them both and restarting her personal cycle of violence.

Once more, Elektra began to travel the world, assassinating the likes of Leonard Prebble, corrupt Djanda president Bridget Hapanmyas, and her own employers when they attempted to betray her. She once spent a week killing the Punisher's targets before he could. When the two finally met up, she told him that she had done it because she was bored. Intrigued, the Punisher asked her out on a date.

On an adventure to the nation of Naou, she was hired to kill the Piaka Loio (the Bloody Prophet), allegedly a reincarnation of the death god Bara. Elektra slaughtered the Prophet's followers, but upon learning that the Prophet was actually a small child, she allowed him to live. She did eliminate all evidence of the child's ever having been the Prophet, knowing no one would believe him.

Returning to the USA, Elektra was hired by Evgeny Bezzubekov to kill his Russian mobster father Urishka so that he could succeed him. In the process, Elektra suffered from a severe flu she had contracted in Naou. While dazed and feverish, Elektra had a vision of the god Bara, during which time she believed herself to be fighting for her life against the death god while she was actually slaying both Urishka and Evgeny. Subsequently, she visited her own grave where she encountered Daredevil again. Feeling there was no longer any existing relationship between them, Elektra fled.

Without a sensei, without purpose, Elektra remains an assassin — one who knows exactly what it feels like to die every time she takes a life. She is a shadow, unseen until the moment she chooses to reveal herself. Her life is one of seclusion, world travel, cover identities, disguises, and an ongoing inner battle that takes a toll as severe as the world of violence, blood and death in which she lives.

#### PERSONAL INFORMATION

**Height:** 5'9"  
**Weight:** 130 lbs.  
**Hair:** Blue-black  
**Eyes:** Black

**Disabilities:** Her fingerprints have been removed.

#### POWERS & ABILITIES

**Superhuman Powers:** Elektra has occasionally demonstrated low-level telekinesis, though it is possible that this may be just illusion which victims of her mesmerism are led to see. She can communicate telepathically with individuals possessing similar levels of mental discipline, such as the Chaste.

**Skills:** Elektra possesses peak human levels of strength, speed, agility, reflexes, stamina, etc. She is an expert in Ninjutsu and various other martial arts, as well as gymnastics. She is a mistress of the skills of the ancient Ninja warriors of Japan.

Elektra has numerous abilities which border on the superhuman. She can control her own autonomic nervous system to a degree, controlling bleeding, fighting infection,

etc. She is able to keep to the shadows and move with such speed that she can remain unseen even in broad daylight. She also has demonstrated on occasion the ability to mesmerize others, and as such make them see illusions or other phenomena.

**Weapons:** Elektra is highly proficient with such weaponry as long swords, shuriken (throwing stars), and especially the sai, a special three-pronged dagger. In addition, Elektra is experienced with a variety of firearms, explosives, and even anti-tank or aircraft artillery.





**REAL NAME:** Vanessa Fisk

**KNOWN ALIASES:** Mrs. K

**IDENTITY:** No dual identity

**OCCUPATION:** Independently wealthy; briefly led the New York mobs

**CITIZENSHIP:** Unrevealed; presumably naturalized citizen of the United States of America

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Unrevealed

**MARITAL STATUS:** Married; currently separated

**KNOWN RELATIVES:** Wilson Fisk (husband), Richard Fisk (son, deceased)

**GROUP AFFILIATION:** None

**EDUCATION:** Self-educated in European arts and culture

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Amazing Spider-Man, Vol. 1 #70 (1969)

**HISTORY:** Vanessa appeared to be only fifteen years old when she was brought before Wilson Fisk by his band of thieves to be used as chattel. Though she was lost, afraid, and amnesiac, Fisk saw her natural grace and depth of spirit. Fisk--already known as the Kingpin--saw in her the object of every lonely dream he'd ever had. Within a short time, Vanessa and Wilson were married, and their son, Richard, was born within one year of their marriage.

When Richard was a youth, Vanessa tried to shield him from the life his father led. At times she even had to protect Richard from Wilson, who saw him as weak, pathetic, and an embarrassment. Though Vanessa loved Wilson, their relationship seemed to drain her life. Her health had already begun to deteriorate when she sent Richard off to school in Europe.

After college (equivalent to U.S. private high school), Richard remained in Europe and faked his own suicide. Partially in denial, Wilson attempted to shield Vanessa from this news. Having recently become head of the New York mobs, Wilson had told Vanessa that he was bringing the violence of his life to an end. Soon after Vanessa helped Wilson escape both Spider-Man and the police, she learned of Richard's apparent death. Shortly thereafter, however, Vanessa saw Wilson struggling against his rival, the Schemer, whose eyes she quickly recognized as Richard's. When Wilson learned the Schemer's identity, he lapsed into an inert state.

Vanessa had Wilson taken to an institution to restore his mind. When this failed, Richard had his father's mind restored via hyper-shock treatment. Richard, then acting as leader of a faction of the terrorist organization Hydra, sought to involve his father in the group, but instead the Kingpin tried to destroy the faction. Vanessa was forced to allow Wilson to learn that the Supreme Hydra was Richard in order to prevent Wilson from killing him.

Richard was nearly killed in the ensuing conflict involving the Red Skull, and the Kingpin sought to save him by draining the life of Spider-Man. Though Vanessa opposed these means, she was nonetheless pleased when Richard was revived. Spider-Man survived the process, and the Kingpin was seemingly killed in the subsequent struggle. Vanessa allowed Spider-Man to leave in peace, as she was grateful for regaining her son.

After the Kingpin recovered, Vanessa convinced him to retire from his life of crime. She gave him a 24-hour ultimatum to put his affairs in order and leave with her for Japan, or else she would leave him forever. Holding him to that exact time, Vanessa walked in on him at the stroke of midnight and stopped him from killing a defeated Spider-Man.

Wishing Wilson to prove his commitment, Vanessa convinced him to turn over his files on the activities of leaders of organized crime to American legal authorities. She returned to New York to acquire the legal services of Nelson & Murdock, but leaders of the Kingpin's former syndicate learned of this and tried to prevent this from happening. To this end, their agent Bruno assaulted the meeting between Vanessa and her lawyers, and they used the distraction to kidnap her.





Her captors arranged a simple trade: Vanessa for the Kingpin's files. The Kingpin met them at the arranged construction site, but he used a high-pitched sonic device to incapacitate his enemies. The Kingpin rushed to rescue Vanessa; however, one of the Kingpin's aides, Lynch, who correctly recognized Vanessa as the only obstacle preventing Fisk from returning to crime, launched a mortar that collapsed the building on them. The Kingpin was only stunned, but Vanessa was nowhere to be found.

In the sewers below the collapsed building, Vanessa awakened, concussed and amnesiac. She wandered the sewers and streets, seeking food, during which time she was photographed by Ben Urich. She soon found herself among a group of homeless people under the dominion of the grotesque King of the Sewers, who picked Vanessa to be his next "Queen." Fortunately, Urich notified Daredevil of her whereabouts; Daredevil defeated the King and brought Vanessa back to the surface.

Meanwhile, the Kingpin had retaken control of New York's mobs, slain Lynch for his actions, and installed his agent Randolph Cherryh as the next mayor of New York City. Daredevil confronted the Kingpin, showed him Vanessa's ring, and insisted that he remove Cherryh from office if he wanted her back. The Kingpin acquiesced.

Overwhelmed by her recent experiences, Vanessa slipped from periods of dazed lucidity to a virtually comatose state. During a waking moment, she was briefly held hostage by a drug-addled Punisher. The Kingpin saved her and brutally beat the Punisher for his transgression. Realizing that his enemy Micah Synn might seek to attack him through Vanessa, the Kingpin hired actress Heidi DeVoto to impersonate her. Heidi (as Vanessa) was abducted by agents of Micah, and was killed while trying to help Becky Blake escape from becoming an intended human sacrifice.

The Kingpin's agent, the Answer, determined that light energy from the vigilante Dagger might prove able to cure Vanessa. To this end, the Answer kidnapped Dagger, but found that her energies were being drained by the cyborg Silvermane. The Answer sacrificed his own life energy to restore Dagger, but she refused to donate any of her energies to help the Kingpin's wife.

On their twentieth wedding anniversary, the Kingpin became desperate to save Vanessa. He made a generous offer to French psychiatrist Dr. Paul Mondat to come to New York to treat her. However, after Mondat arrived, the Kingpin had his agent Victor kidnap the doctor's wife Cheryl. The Kingpin hoped that having Mondat's wife would inspire the doctor's passion to cure Vanessa in order to save his own wife as quickly as possible. However, while Mondat did help Vanessa significantly, he also made her loyal to and dependent on him. When the stuporous Vanessa asked Mondat to help her escape from Wilson--which the Kingpin saw over his monitor--Fisk knew he had lost her. Daredevil rescued Cheryl Mondat, and the Kingpin gave Mondat a blank check on a bottomless bank account to finance the completion of Vanessa's treatment. The Mondats and Vanessa departed for Europe, where Vanessa would receive a new identity.

While Vanessa was being treated, the Kingpin kept her under surveillance. Learning of a plot to kill her, the Kingpin had Vanessa returned to New York while he personally dealt with the threat. The Kingpin instructed Dr. Zachar to keep Vanessa calm so she would not be shocked by her sudden return. Vanessa showed progress by recognizing Richard during one of his visits, but Zachar heavily sedated (and scolded) Vanessa. Upon returning, the Kingpin killed Zachar for his perceived abuse of his wife, after which he had her sent back to Europe.

Vanessa stayed in Europe when she heard of the Kingpin's fall from power, though she did shed a tear on his behalf. When the Kingpin

was nearly killed sometime later, however, Vanessa returned to America. Utilizing the Kingpin's former agent, Walter Dini, she sent Wilson to Switzerland for treatment while she stayed behind and plotted revenge. Under Vanessa's instructions, the Kingpin's men killed all those who had a part in her husband's attack. The mastermind of the effort, Sammy Silke, managed to escape to the police. Vanessa herself confronted her son Richard, who had been Sammy's silent partner, and shot him in cold blood.

Hoping to put an end to her involvement with New York and the criminal underworld once and for all, Vanessa sold Fisk Tower and divided the Kingpin's business between several of his former colleagues, including the Stilt-Man. However, she deliberately refused to offer any portion to the Owl, whom she cursed, knowing that he would then take apart the people she had put in power.

Vanessa had one last dinner, meeting with Daredevil and giving him the name of Henry Dobbs, the FBI agent who had given his secret identity (learned from Silke) to the Daily Globe newspaper. Vanessa then told Daredevil that she was leaving New York, never to return. The Kingpin eventually returned to New York, killing Dini and others who helped Vanessa murder his son. Whether Vanessa has truly seen the last of New York or the Kingpin of Crime remains to be seen.



Art by Alex Maleev

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Height: 5'8"  
Weight: 125 lbs.  
Eyes: Blue  
Hair: Black with white streaks

POWERS & ABILITIES

**Notes:** Vanessa is generally quite nonviolent, but she can be cold, calculating, and vengeful when she needs to be. She is competent in the use of firearms.





**REAL NAME:** Melvin Potter

**KNOWN ALIASES:** Formerly the Gladiator

**IDENTITY:** Publicly known

**OCCUPATION:** Costume designer and seller, gym owner/manager, occasional bodyguard; former professional criminal

**CITIZENSHIP:** United States of America with a criminal record

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Unrevealed

**MARITAL STATUS:** Married

**KNOWN RELATIVES:** Betsy Beatty Potter (wife)

**GROUP AFFILIATION:** Former member of Electro's Emissaries of Evil and the Nefaria "Family" of the Maggia; formerly led own criminal gang

**EDUCATION:** High School

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #18 (1966)

**HISTORY:** The proprietor of the Spotlight Costume shop, Melvin Potter developed a fanatical hatred of masked heroes, believing that it was only their colorful costumes that made them popular. He believed anyone could put on a costume and become a hero...or a villain. When Franklin "Foggy" Nelson came to his shop to purchase a Daredevil costume--hoping to impress Karen Page by convincing her he was Daredevil--Potter suggested hiring someone to dress up as a villain and attack Foggy and Karen. Foggy could then change into the Daredevil costume and save the day. Foggy agreed to the scheme.

Melvin designed a gladiator costume and then attacked Foggy and Karen while they took a stroll on a pier, surrounded by a thick fog. His vision occluded by the mist, the Gladiator failed to notice the real Daredevil had arrived to protect his friends. When the police arrived to take him away, Gladiator believed it was Foggy who had defeated him, and that he must be the real Daredevil. While in the custody of the police, Potter was freed by agents of the Masked Marauder, who also believed that Foggy was Daredevil. They planned to ambush Foggy, but learned the truth when the real Daredevil showed up and defeated the Marauder's agents. Potter joined the Marauder in a separate assault on Daredevil involving the Marauder's synthetic Tri-Man warrior. During this struggle the Gladiator had a chance to work for the Marauder's superiors, the crime organization known as the Maggia. He then released a lion to attack Daredevil but the hero had to rescue him from it. Potter then refused to attack Daredevil.

Nonetheless, the Maggia accepted the Gladiator as an agent working for them in Europe. Rankled by his last defeat and arrest, the Gladiator was pleased when the Maggia sent him to join Electro and his Emissaries of Evil--Leap-Frog (Vincent Patilio), the Matador, and Stilt-Man--in a mass assault on Daredevil. Despite their power and numbers, the unorganized Emissaries were defeated and captured by Daredevil.

After escaping from prison, the Gladiator convinced the Maggia leader, Big M (later Madame Masque), to send him against Iron Man (Tony Stark), hoping that by proving his ability, he would be able to assume leadership of the Maggia. After a struggle, Iron Man managed to electrocute the Gladiator, who was taken away by security guards.

In prison, Potter feigned amnesia, and when the guards brought in his equipment to refresh his memory he used it in an escape attempt. However, Daredevil was on hand to oppose the Gladiator, delaying him until his blades disintegrated; they had been specially treated in advance as insurance against such an attempt. Potter was easily recaptured.

The Gladiator later led his own gang in a plot to hijack a plane in order to sell it to the highest South American bidder. However, he was unaware that the flight's passengers included Daredevil (as well as the Black Widow). Threatening to detonate a bomb, Potter kept Daredevil at bay for a time, but eventually the hero managed to confront and overpower him.





The Gladiator was employed by Death-Stalker to locate the papers Ted Sallis had used in his Super Soldier serum. Finding them in the Florida Everglades, Potter kidnapped Candace Nelson (half-sister to Franklin "Foggy" Nelson), who had been investigating the papers as part of her graduate project. When Daredevil intervened, the Gladiator successfully defeated him, but was then subdued by the monstrous Man-Thing (Sallis himself, transformed by his own serum).

The Gladiator joined forces with the Beetle (Abner Jenkins) against Daredevil, but both were defeated. He was then hired by the criminal Enforcer to steal an electronic device from the Eel (Leopold Stryke), leading to an encounter with the Ghost Rider (Johnny Blaze); Potter slew the Eel after finding him empty-handed. The Gladiator was used by the Purple Man alongside Cobra, the Jester, and Mr. Hyde in an attack on Daredevil in Ryker's Island prison, but the hero defeated all of his attackers.

Following his latest defeat, Potter came under the care of social worker Betsy Beatty. Though he had begun to make significant progress in coming to terms with his rage, Potter came to believe that Beatty loved him because he was the Gladiator, leading him to retake his armor and hold a museum full of people hostage, demanding a champion to battle. Daredevil arrived to fight the Gladiator; the battle moved to an exhibit fashioned after a Roman gladiatorial arena where Daredevil managed to incapacitate him.

With Beatty's aid and Matt Murdock as his attorney, Potter began to move toward reforming. In the process, he was mistaken for a lookalike, Michael Reese, a.k.a. Ladykiller, who had years before assaulted and crippled Murdock's assistant, Becky Blake. Potter broke out of prison to clear his name, but Murdock convinced him to turn himself in; Daredevil defeated Reese and exposed the truth. The Hand targeted Potter for death in the midst of his subsequent trial. He was defended by Elektra, who brought him the Gladiator armor. The armor served to protect Potter who had lost his killer instinct; Elektra and Daredevil fought off the ninjas. Later, while Daredevil was again occupied with the Hand, Foggy Nelson came to Potter's rescue by having a mistrial declared.

Returning to his career as the owner of his costume shop, Potter declined an offer to return to crime as the partner of Turk Barrett. Sometime later, a group of criminals hid out in Potter's shop and forced him at gunpoint to don his Gladiator armor and help them escape the police. Wounded in their initial assault, the dazed Potter came to believe he was a Roman gladiator fighting in the arena, resulting in a battle with Spider-Man, but the hero talked him down and Potter retired the armor again. However, criminals kidnapped Betsy and tried to force Melvin to steal a million dollars for them. Unable to stomach his old armor, he donned a Roman gladiator's costume to commit the thefts, but also called Matt Murdock for help. His actions and the wearing of armor pushed him again to the edge of insanity, but Daredevil subdued him, after which the two rescued Betsy.

Agents of the Kingpin coerced Potter into making a Daredevil costume which they placed on a psychopathic killer, but Daredevil overheard Potter telling this to Betsy and the hero subdued the imposter. Potter later helped Daredevil by designing a Kingpin costume to fool Spider-Man when the real Kingpin returned to New York to stabilize the ongoing gang war. Spotlight Costumes also designed the uniform for Eric Masterson (Thor/Thunderstrike).

Potter and Betsy eventually married, though Potter donned the Gladiator armor once again in an effort to dissuade a young hoodlum from trying to emulate him. Potter and Betsy both attended the funeral of Karen Page, and Melvin has continued to help Matt Murdock, taking care of Fogwell's Gym (where Matt's father, "Battling Jack" Murdock, used to train) and serving as his

bodyguard after his secret identity was compromised. Though Potter appears to have found peace at last, the specter of violence is not easily shed, and it remains to be seen if he will be able to maintain his current path in life.

With Potter retired, Mr. Fear (Cranston) gave a revamped version of his armor to another man, described only as a warrior born. Sent to battle Daredevil inside Ryker's Island prison, he eventually met defeat. This man then shaved his head to more closely mimic Potter and again wore the armor as part of the Gang of Four—alongside Copperhead, the Owl, and Stilt-Man, undertaking a strategic attack on the Kingpin's empire. Copperhead was exposed and accused of using the group as pawns for his demonic master, and Daredevil and Spider-Man helped break up the plot.

Potter has no known connection to the Imperial Guardsman Gladiator (Kallark), Hugo Danner (a.k.a. Man-God), or Randy Kellogg (Gladiator of the New Universe).

#### PERSONAL INFORMATION

**Height:** 6'6"  
**Weight:** 300 lbs.  
**Color:** Blue  
**Markings:** None

**Special Features:** Potter wears a moustache.

#### CHARACTERISTICS

**Current Status:** None

**Physical Condition:** Melvin Potter is in excellent physical condition, possessing peak human strength, as well as the speed, stamina, agility, and reflexes of an athlete. He was a savage fighter and an excellent hand-to-hand combatant, though he has put that behavior behind him.

**Other Skills:** Melvin is also a highly talented costume designer.

**Equipment:** As the Gladiator, Melvin wore a suit of body armor, including a full metal helmet and metal gauntlets. His tough nylon boots are studded with tungsten blades, and his helmet contains an oxygen regenerator, enabling him to resist gas attacks.

**Weapons:** His chief weapons are jagged circular blades made of titanium steel, one mounted on each gauntlet. Small rotors in the gauntlets cause the blades to rotate at high speeds. These blades are primarily offensive weapons, able to lacerate anything they touch. However, they also work as shields, shattering many weapons before they can strike him. They also function to provide him some lift, enabling him to leap great distances.

**Other Notable Features:** He also briefly wore a costume patterned after a Roman gladiator in which he wore body armor and used a shield.







**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #174 (1981)

**HISTORY:** At least a millennium old, the Hand is a ninja assassin guild, pursuing dark agendas while lending its services to anyone who meets its price. Guided by jonin masters under leadership of a secretive Five, its origins are shrouded in mystery, but its members worship and derive power from a demon-god known as the Beast. At some point, one faction of the Hand, believing that it alone could best serve the Beast, splintered into a separate cult, the True Believers, and a blood feud has existed between the two ever since. More bitter enemies still are the Chaste, mystic warriors who have checked the Hand's spread and struggled to prevent it from claiming the sacred sword of Yamato-Take, a talisman that could give them mastery over Japan. Their war was long a stalemate, neither side achieving definite victory.

The Hand has met many setbacks over the past few decades. Early in the twentieth century, it sought a foothold in the island nation of Madripoor, only to be opposed by the adventurer Seraph, who was later joined in her struggle by her protege, the mutant fighter now known as Wolverine. The Hand formed an alliance of its own with Nazi Baron Strucker, but alongside Captain America and others, Wolverine foiled the Hand's attempt to transform his young friend, Natasha Romanova, into a master assassin. The alliance with Strucker's terrorist cell Hydra ended when Strucker denounced the Hand's practices and defeated its leaders. In the late 1950s, the Hand

recruited Drake, a rejected Chaste student who hoped to destroy the Hand from within. Won to its ways, she devoted her deadly skills to its cause for over a decade, but in 1972, after a clash between the Hand and the Chaste led her to kill her own father, she turned against them, eventually teaching martial arts to young students instead.

The Hand foresaw one whose skill would rival Drake's, and when young Elektra Natchios was endangered, a Hand assassin saved her life. After studying with and being rejected by the Chaste, Elektra, like Drake, infiltrated the Hand, but she too fell under its power; she remained with them for a year or two before setting out on her own as a mercenary, but the Hand could not be eluded so easily. In one of the cult's boldest moves, the Beast itself possessed a U.S. presidential candidate, but Elektra foiled this plan with the help of S.H.I.E.L.D. cyborg John Garrett, who ended the adventure comatose, a portion of Elektra's psyche remaining trapped within his own-- a legacy that ensured he would again feel the Hand's touch.

In recent years, the Hand has expanded operations to America, taking contracts from more conventional criminals. Its warriors first clashed with Daredevil when hired by the Kingpin to assassinate Matt Murdock; when Murdock fought off the first wave, Elektra secretly aided him, then worked with him and the Gladiator (Melvin Potter) against a second band. The jonin, nursing a grudge against Elektra, sent immortal warrior giant Kirigi against her, but Elektra slew them both. The contract was seemingly cancelled, but the Hand, having reached once for Daredevil, would not be so easily evaded.



# JESSICA JONES

**REAL NAME:** Jessica "Jess" Campbell Jones

**KNOWN ALIASES:** Jewel, Knightress, Madeleine, other aliases in the course of her investigative work

**IDENTITY:** Publicly known, although few people remember her costumed activities

**OCCUPATION:** Private investigator, former adventurer, otherwise unrevealed

**CITIZENSHIP:** U.S. citizen with no known criminal record

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Unrevealed, possibly Forest Hills, NY

**MARITAL STATUS:** Single

**KNOWN RELATIVES:** Dave (father, deceased); mother (name unrevealed, deceased); Phillip (brother, deceased); adoptive father (name unrevealed); adoptive mother (name unrevealed); adoptive sister (name unrevealed); Jenny (adoptive aunt)

**GROUP AFFILIATION:** None

**EDUCATION:** High school diploma, private investigator's license

**HISTORY:** Jessica Jones was a lonely Midtown High School student with a crush on fellow student Peter Parker (who would soon become the hero Spider-Man) and a fantasy fixation on the Human Torch. She was on a trip to Disney World with her family when her father, distracted by the backseat quarrel of her and her brother, lost control of their car in an accident with an army truck transporting unidentified experimental material, possibly radioactive, to which Jessica was exposed in the course of the accident. Her father, mother, and brother were killed, and Jessica sustained injuries that put her in a coma for months. While the Fantastic Four clashed with Galactus outside her hospital window, Jessica awoke from her coma; she was placed in a home for wayward children and later adopted by a family named Jones, whose name she took.

Months after the accident, while running home from school in an emotionally distraught state, Jessica manifested superhuman powers as a result of the experimental material to which she had been exposed; her inexperienced flying led her to crash-land in the bay, where she was rescued by Thor. She soon realized that she had also gained superhuman strength. While testing her flight capabilities, she chanced upon and defeated the costumed criminal known as the Scorpion, in desperate straits not long after his first defeat by Spider-Man. Proclaimed a hero, Jessica soon took on the costumed identity of Jewel, beginning her heroic career less than three years after Spider-Man's debut.

Little is known of Jessica's career as Jewel, but her activities were evidently not as high-profile as those of many of New York's other costumed heroes. Nevertheless, she remained active for around four years, befriending a handful of other heroes, until she came upon a riot provoked by the Purple Man. Using his pheromone powers to take control of her, the Purple Man directed her to attack the approaching police, then held her in his thrall for months, subjecting her to physical and mental humiliation in imagined retaliation for his defeats by other super heroes. Finally, in a fit of insane rage, he sent Jessica to Avengers Mansion hoping she would find and kill his nemesis, Daredevil. Jessica attacked the first hero she saw, the Scarlet Witch, an act that snapped her out of the Purple Man's control. Unprepared to explain her actions, she fled and was pursued by the Avengers, taking a powerful blow from the Vision. Ms. Marvel (Carol Danvers) rescued her from further attack, but Jessica was rendered comatose and cared for in a S.H.I.E.L.D. facility until Phoenix of the X-Men telepathically helped her regain her faculties. After weeks of physical rehabilitation, she was offered the position of S.H.I.E.L.D. liaison to the Avengers, but Jessica felt that her experience had taught her that she was unsuited to the life of a costumed hero, and she gave up her Jewel identity. Moreover, she found that the Purple Man's mistreatment had left her emotionally unsure of herself, particularly in romantic endeavors.

Details of Jessica's subsequent life are sparse, although it is known that she was involved in a string of relationships that ended badly, including one with S.H.I.E.L.D. agent Clay Quartermain. She also became close friends with Ms. Marvel, who would undergo her own share of trauma during her Avengers membership and afterward. At



Art by David Mack



one point Jessica attempted to return to costumed action as the Knightress, but this period was brief. She eventually became a licensed private investigator and opened her own firm, Alias Investigations.

Jessica's recent string of cases included a surveillance assignment involving a woman whose companion was revealed to be Captain America, who changed from his then-secret identity into costume before Jessica's video camera; when the woman whom he had been photographed with was slain, Jessica realized she had been set up. She was questioned by suspicious police officers but helped out of her predicament by the timely arrival of attorney Matt Murdock. Her investigation led to a fight with enforcer Man-Mountain Marko and the revelation that she had been expected to publicize the video with the intent of creating a scandal defaming Captain America and the US government. With the help of S.H.I.E.L.D., Jessica exposed the plot's mastermind, a man named Zoumas, and received the thanks of Captain America, who encouraged her to return to the heroic life. Jessica next investigated a deranged man claiming to be Avengers associate Rick Jones, who paranoically feared attack by the alien races in whose war the real Jones had intervened. Jessica managed to partially calm his madness and reunited him with his wife. She was then hired by J. Jonah Jameson in an effort to track Spider-Man, only to bilk the publisher by spending his money on charitable endeavors. An out-of-town case led her to help troubled teen Rebecca Cross, who had run away after encouraging people to believe she was a mutant out of rebellion against her town's oppressive atmosphere, but the case ended badly when Rebecca's aunt killed her unjustly accused father.

When Daredevil's secret identity as Matt Murdock was exposed, Murdock hired Jessica and the hero-for-hire Luke Cage as bodyguards. This initially proved awkward as Jessica and Cage had had a brief fling which strained their friendship, but they soon resolved their difficulties. Jessica instead began dating Scott Lang, the Avenger known as Ant-Man, with whom she was set up by her friend Carol Danvers, now Warbird. She next found herself investigating the Mutant Growth Hormone trade, and teamed up with fellow superhuman investigator and ex-costumed heroine Jessica Drew to rescue Mattie Franklin, the young heroine known as Spider-Woman, from being misused by the dealers. She also hired the dedicated but annoying young Malcolm Powder as a part-time assistant. When the Kingpin sent the insane assassin Typhoid Mary against Murdock, Jessica and Cage worked together against her, getting her on the ropes so that Murdock could deliver a blow to end the fight.

Jessica's greatest challenge came when relatives of some of the Purple Man's victims asked her to confront the imprisoned villain about his many murders, several of them committed on whims, in hopes that he would give their families a sense of closure by confessing to his killings. She was greatly apprehensive about confronting her former tormentor, but being consoled by Cage, she agreed to visit the Purple Man in prison, only to receive no useful information from the psychopathic mind-controller. The Purple Man then escaped in the chaos caused by the breakout of fellow prisoner Carnage, and he sought out Jessica in order to again control her. When the Avengers arrived, he commanded Jessica to fight them, but she activated a psychic defense trigger left in her mind by Phoenix years earlier and defied him, knocking him out with one blow.

In the aftermath of the confrontation, Jessica informed Ant-Man that she was pregnant with another man's child and the couple broke up. She instead moved in with Cage, the father, and the two began a long-term relationship. Jessica has since taken a position as a superhuman consultant with the Daily Bugle, working with reporter Ben Urich on stories related to New York's growing super hero population.



PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

- Height: 5' 7"
- Weight: 124 lbs.
- Eyes: Brown
- Hair: Brown, formerly dyed pink

POWERS & ABILITIES

- Superhuman Strength:** Jessica Jones possesses superhuman strength; the parameters of her strength are unrevealed, but she can lift an automobile with no discernible effort. She possesses an enhanced level of resistance to physical injury, although she is unsure of whether or not she is bulletproof. She is also able to fly, although she is out of practice in doing so.
- Skills:** Jessica Jones is a reasonably skilled detective and hand-to-hand combatant.





**REAL NAME:** Wilson Grant Fisk

**KNOWN ALIASES:** The Brainwasher, Harold Howard

**IDENTITY:** Publicly known to be the Kingpin, though it has never been officially proven

**OCCUPATION:** Criminal organizer and mastermind, former president and owner of legitimate businesses

**CITIZENSHIP:** United States of America

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Unrevealed

**MARITAL STATUS:** Married, currently separated

**KNOWN RELATIVES:** Vanessa (wife), Richard (son, deceased), Anatoly Fyskov (ancestor)

**GROUP AFFILIATION:** Former member of Las Vegas HYDRA faction, "Acts of Vengeance" prime movers, leader of a coalition of East Coast non-Maggia criminal organizations, former head of Fujikawa Industries

**EDUCATION:** Self-educated to college level in political science

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1 #50 (1967)

**HISTORY:** Wilson Fisk is the descendant of Anatoly Fyskov, a Russian businessman who immigrated to the USA in the late 19th century. Initially an unpopular, blubbery boy, Wilson was impoverished and bullied as a child. Committing his first murder at age twelve, Fisk became determined to be the best at whatever he did. Believing physical strength to be a major factor in building power in the underworld, he trained relentlessly in body building and personal combat. His pursuit of the Japanese art of sumo led to an interest in the Orient. He educated himself by stealing books from stores and libraries, becoming particularly fascinated by political science. Refusing to work as any criminal's henchman, Fisk's combined strength and intellect led him to become leader of a small gang of teens. His use of political techniques in organizing and directing groups of criminals earned him the nickname "kingpin of crime," a title which he held by the age of fifteen.

Although Fisk took great pleasure in physical combat with his enemies, he recognized the necessity to never place himself in a situation where the law could prove his responsibility for crimes. As a result, it is believed that Fisk has never been convicted. Fisk's gang rapidly grew in size, influence, power, and wealth. He was careful to invest his illegal gains in legitimate businesses; the first company he owned dealt only in spices from the Far East. Fisk eventually developed a vast legitimate business empire, though he still professed to be merely a humble spice dealer.

About a decade after becoming a criminal leader, Fisk met, fell in love with, and soon married Vanessa. Her love gave him the peace he sought after his constant struggle for power. Their son, Richard, was born within a year after their marriage. Not long after this, in order to advance his own position, the Kingpin slew one of his own business partners, a Cheyenne known as Crazy Horse. Fisk became the guardian of Crazy Horse's daughter, Maya Lopez, recognizing her talents and sending her to a school for prodigies.

The Kingpin continued to increase his influence over time, working under and gaining the respect of such noted crime





lords as Don Rigoletto and Max "Hammer" Stryker; Fisk eventually slew Rigoletto and usurped his power. One of his earliest encounters with a superhuman occurred when he employed the young Josephine Pulaski to use her powers to sabotage a local construction site. This nearly brought the Kingpin into direct conflict with the young hero Spider-Man.

Nearly twenty years after the Kingpin married Vanessa, Spider-Man briefly retired. The Kingpin seized the moment and proposed a coalition of criminal gangs in order to compete with the Maggia, which virtually monopolized organized crime throughout the country. Meeting with nearly unanimous acceptance, the Kingpin then directed a major crime wave in New York City. The return of Spider-Man brought this wave to a virtual halt and partially dissolved the coalition, though the Kingpin maintained control of the gangs of New York.

Irritated by Spider-Man's opposition, the Kingpin allowed himself to become personally involved in a conflict involving a mysterious life-giving ancient stone tablet. As a result, he was jailed for stealing the tablet, though he did escape from prison and the charges were dropped due to lack of evidence. He next entered into conflict with a rival crimelord, the Schemer, who turned out to be his own son, Richard. Believing Richard to have died, the Kingpin was devastated upon Richard's unmasking and lapsed into a comatose state.

After conventional treatments failed to revive his father, Richard used experimental hyper-shock therapy on him. Richard then involved his father in a Las Vegas contingent of the then fragmented Hydra; through this group the Kingpin plotted to overthrow the United States government and even achieve world domination. He turned against Hydra after learning his faction was actually controlled by the Red Skull (Johann Schmidt). Since this time the Kingpin has generally pursued more realistic goals.

The Kingpin captured Spider-Man and drained his life force to treat Richard's injuries sustained in the Hydra conflict. Spider-Man regained his strength and fought the Kingpin, who fell to his seeming death. Initially amnesiac, the Kingpin recovered and rejoined Vanessa, who persuaded him to retire from his life of crime and move to Japan with her. Vanessa also convinced him to turn over files on the activities of leaders of organized crime to American legal authorities. However, the former members of the Kingpin's crime syndicate kidnapped Vanessa. The Kingpin eventually agreed to exchange the files for Vanessa, surviving several assassination attempts in the process. However, as he approached Vanessa, his own lieutenant Lynch caused a building to collapse, seemingly killing Vanessa, whom he correctly saw as the only obstacle to the Kingpin's return to crime. As Lynch intended, the Kingpin returned to power, defeating his former syndicate, but Fisk realized what Lynch had done and killed him as well.

Continuing to cement his power, the Kingpin successfully arranged the election of his agent Randolph Cherryh, as the next mayor of New York City. However, when Daredevil found Vanessa still alive, he agreed to return her to Fisk only if he would force Cherryh to retire. Fisk acquiesced, but sent his assassin, Elektra, to kill Franklin Nelson in retaliation. Elektra was killed by Bullseye, who sought to reclaim his job as the Kingpin's chief assassin. Later, the Kingpin actually worked with Daredevil against Micah Synn, a savage jungle warlord who threatened his empire.

The Kingpin continued to cross paths with the other heroes, including a drug-addled Punisher, whom he soundly defeated, and his old foe Spider-Man. He blamed Spider-Man for a failed effort to revive the nearly comatose Vanessa. Having recently had his scientists grant the Black Cat true bad luck powers, the Kingpin claimed victory as he was being partly responsible for driving

Spider-Man and the Black Cat apart, due to the risk her powers had on his life.

Meanwhile, Richard Fisk had adopted another alias, the Rose, hoping to interfere with his father's business. The Kingpin determined the Rose's identity, but allowed him to continue to operate under a watchful eye.

Desperate to save Vanessa, the Kingpin kidnapped the wife of psychologist Dr. Paul Mondat, hoping to force him to save Vanessa. Mondat, however, turned the tables on him; he recovered Vanessa, but also made her loyal to him instead. After Daredevil saved Mondat's wife, the Kingpin admitted defeat and allowed Mondat to take Vanessa to Europe for further treatment.

The Kingpin never forgot his defeats at Daredevil's hands. When he obtained his enemy's true identity, Matt Murdock, he used that information to systematically destroy his foe's professional career and private life. When a maddened Daredevil confronted him, the Kingpin beat him unconscious and attempted to have him drowned. When this failed, the Kingpin sent the super soldier Nuke to draw Daredevil out, but this served only to draw further attention to his own activities. Following this, the Kingpin mysteriously vanished, traveling to Europe to deal with a threat to Vanessa. In his absence, a number of would-be crimelords, such as the Rose, Hammerhead, Silvermane, and even the neophyte Blue Boys, sought to fill the void created by his absence. The ensuing gang war also drew the attention of the Hobgoblin (Ned Leeds), Jack O'Lantern (Jason Macendale), and the Punisher. As the conflicts reached a boiling point, the Kingpin secretly returned to the city, a move sanctioned by the U.S. government in order to end the gang war. The Kingpin subsequently downsized his operation, eliminating all those in his organization whom he saw as ineffective.

Murdock, having recovered, started a free law clinic that would cross paths with the Kingpin's endeavors. Despite enlisting Murdock's former partner, Franklin "Foggy" Nelson, the Kingpin continued to lose in the court of law. In response, he sent Typhoid Mary to destroy both Murdock and Daredevil. Though Daredevil survived, he did leave the city behind for a time.

The Punisher led an assault on the Kingpin's operations, determined to take him down once and for all. The Kingpin again defeated the Punisher, whose life was negotiated by the Punisher's agent, Vernon Brooks. A short time after this, the Kingpin became a pawn of the Norse God Loki, serving alongside other prime movers in engineering the "Acts of Vengeance," in which villains were directed to attack heroes who had no experience against them. After Loki's ruse was exposed, the prime movers each went their separate ways. Shortly thereafter Fisk again encountered the Red Skull (one of the former prime movers) and the two vied for control of the New York drug trade. The struggle culminated in single combat between the Red Skull and Kingpin. The Red Skull possessed a cloned body of Captain America, but he had been recently weakened by imprisonment and starvation. Regardless, the Red Skull seriously underestimated the strength of the Kingpin, who nearly crushed him to death, forcing the Skull to surrender and give up his influence on the gangs of New York.

The Kingpin had long utilized Oswald P. Silkworth, the Arranger, to coordinate many of his activities. Under the Kingpin's direction, the Arranger manipulated the mind-controlling mutant known as the Persuader to control the Punisher. Overstepping his limits, the Arranger attempted to have the Punisher kill rival drug lords, the Lobo Brothers. When this failed, the Lobo Brothers, werewolf-like mutants, came to New York and attacked the Kingpin's operations. Irritated at these events, the Kingpin had the Arranger killed by the British assassins Knight and Fogg.



The Kingpin was subsequently hired by Daemian Wainscroft to aid in the recovery of his son Deke, who had been horribly mutated by SS-8, a variant super soldier serum. These efforts brought him into a temporary alliance with the Punisher that eventually succeeded in stopping the monstrous Deke. However, the alliance was short-lived, and as the Punisher continued to oppose the Kingpin's operations, Fisk had the Punisher's partner, Microchip, kidnapped. The Kingpin even severed one of Microchip's fingers to blackmail the Punisher, but the vigilante had become mired in different plots and the Kingpin eventually released Microchip. The Punisher and other vigilantes subsequently joined forces to thwart the Kingpin's plot to use the European Channel Tunnel to form a united international crime network under his control.

Returning to New York, Daredevil took his revenge on the Kingpin. He managed to capture and institutionalize Typhoid Mary, with whom the Kingpin had become romantic. Working with District Attorney Kathy Malper, Daredevil implicated Fisk in various criminal activities. In addition, agents of Hydra infiltrated Fisk's legitimate business and managed to erase his financial data, leaving him virtually penniless. Hydra assaulted Fisk Towers, destroying his property and essentially dissolving his empire. At the end, the Kingpin was defeated by Daredevil and arrested by the police. Posting bail, he went underground with nothing to his name.

Following this defeat, it appeared that Fisk's son, Richard, had succeeded him as the Kingpin of Crime. However, the new "Kingpin" was actually Fisk's old ally, Alfredo Morelli. Alfredo became too absorbed in this new role, and Richard became the Blood Rose to oppose him. After being toppled from power, Alfredo went on to become the criminal Gauntlet.

Meanwhile, the Kingpin had made his way overseas and begun to rebuild his power and financial base, taking control of Fujikawa Industries. He made a second attempt at forming and controlling a united European crime network, but was foiled by Daredevil (during his time as Laurent LeVasseur). After selling Daredevil's identity to the criminal Mysterio, Fisk organized attacks on the New York crime lords who had taken his place and regained his position, albeit with a smaller empire than he had once commanded. He retained this position for some time, but a janitor, Lenny Cebulski, found incriminating files in the crime boss's closet and sought legal advice and protection from Murdock. The Kingpin had Cebulski killed, and sent his former ward Maya Lopez, now known as Echo, to keep Murdock off the case. Lenny Cebulski's twin brother Larry sought vengeance on the Kingpin, shooting him several times. The Kingpin narrowly escaped death, but by then Echo had learned that it was the Kingpin who had killed her father. Enraged, she shot Fisk in the face, leaving him blind.

Regaining his position, the Kingpin soon earned the ire of Sammy Silke, Jr., the son of one of the Kingpin's old partners. Silke convinced Richard Fisk to support him, and he soon organized an ambush on the Kingpin. The Kingpin's inner circle descended upon him with knives, stabbing him repeatedly and leaving him to die.

The Kingpin's massive bulk again saved his life, and loyal agents provided him with private care, though they allowed it to be believed that he had died. Upon learning this, Vanessa returned to America, had her husband sent to Europe for care, and led the Kingpin's men in taking vengeance on all involved in the attack. Vanessa herself killed their son Richard for his betrayal, after which she divided up his empire and returned to Europe, hoping never to return.

The Kingpin awakened to find himself totally healed and his eyesight restored. He returned to New York, took his vengeance on Sammy Silke (who had turned himself in to the FBI for protection), and also killed the men who helped Vanessa execute Richard. Pushing

Typhoid Mary back into insanity, he sent her against Daredevil. When this failed, he sent Bullseye to kill Daredevil's newest love interest, Milla Donovan. After overcoming these threats, Daredevil confronted the Kingpin directly. Pushed to ferocity by recent events, Daredevil managed to beat the Kingpin unconscious, after which he dumped him off at Josie's Bar and Grill and announced himself to be the new Kingpin of Hell's Kitchen.

It is fairly certain that Wilson Fisk will once again regain his status and power, as he has proven his staying power as the Kingpin of Crime.

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

**Height:** 6'7"  
**Weight:** 450 lbs.  
**Eyes:** Blue  
**Hair:** Bald

**Distinguishing Features:** The Kingpin is bald.

**POWERS & ABILITIES**

**Superhuman Powers:** None

**Abilities:** The Kingpin is composed almost entirely of muscle that has been developed to enormous size, much like a sumo wrestler, and he possesses peak human strength. His vast bulk shields him from many forms of injury, either providing padding or causing penetrating wounds to only strike him relatively superficially.

He has extraordinary skill in hand-to-hand combat, specializing in a number of martial arts, including sumo wrestling. His fighting skills and unusual agility for a man of his size compensate for the great difference between his human level of strength and that of Spider-Man when the two engage in unarmed combat. (Spider-Man also has severe inhibitions about using his strength against an opponent without superhuman powers for fear of killing him or her.)

The Kingpin is a criminal genius and a highly skilled planner and organizer. He employs numerous henchmen, scientists, and even superhumans, almost all of whom are fiercely loyal to him due to dedication, fear, or both.

**Weapons:** The Kingpin has sometimes carried a walking stick which contains a laser weapon that fires a short pulse of 300 watts, enough energy to vaporize a handgun. The walking stick can also be used to fire a concentrated spray of sleeping gas. The Kingpin's diamond stickpin also contains a small, highly concentrated spray of sleeping gas which is effective when fired directly into an opponent's face at close range.





# MISTER FEAR

**REAL NAME:** Zoltan Drago; Samuel "Starr" Saxon; Larry Cranston; Alan Fagan

**KNOWN ALIASES:** Saxon is currently known as Machinesmith; Cranston formerly used the alias Harold Cranstone

**IDENTITY:** (all) Publicly known

**OCCUPATION:** (all) Professional criminal; (Drago) former sculptor and amateur chemist; (Saxon) robotocist; (Cranston) lawyer, university professor; (Fagan) former businessman

**CITIZENSHIP:** United States of America; Drago and Saxon are legally dead; Fagan has a criminal record

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** (Saxon) Memphis, Tennessee; (Fagan) Madison, Wisconsin; others unrevealed

**MARITAL STATUS:** (all) Single

**KNOWN RELATIVES:** (Saxon) unnamed mother (deceased); (Cranston) Alan Fagan (nephew), Ariel Tremmore (grandniece); (Fagan) Larry Cranston (uncle), Ariel Tremmore (daughter)

**GROUP AFFILIATION:** (Drago) former member of Fellowship of Fear, unwitting agent of the Dweller-in-Darkness; (Saxon) Skeleton Crew (as Machinesmith); (Cranston) utilized Charles Borroughs, Gladiator (unnamed), Insomnia, Molten Man; (Fagan) New Enforcers Inner Circle

**EDUCATION:** (Drago) bachelor's degree in art; (Saxon) doctorate in computer science and engineering; (Cranston) law degree; (Fagan) expelled from various colleges

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** (Drago) Daredevil Vol. 1 #6 (1965); ("Starr" Saxon) Daredevil Vol. 1 #49 (1969), (Saxon as Mr. Fear) Daredevil Vol. 1 #54 (1969); (Cranston) Daredevil Vol. 1 #88 (1972), (Cranston as Mr. Fear) Daredevil Vol. 1 #91 (1972); (Fagan) Marvel Team-Up Vol. 1 #92 (1980)

**HISTORY:** Zoltan Drago ran a wax museum and dreamed of creating an army of slaves by causing his sculptures to come to life. While developing a chemical process he thought would make this happen, his thoughts were tainted by the demonic Fear Lord known as the Dweller-in-Darkness, causing him instead to create a gas that induced fear when inhaled. Inspired by the possibilities, Drago manufactured thousands of pellets of the gas and designed a frightening costume. Calling himself Mr. Fear, Drago used the gas to enlist the Eel (Leopold Stryke) and the Ox (Raymond Bloch) to serve him in his Fellowship of Fear. While committing crimes for personal gain, Mr. Fear encountered Daredevil, who used a fan to disperse the fear gas, enabling him to defeat the criminal. Though sent to prison with his paraphernalia confiscated, Drago had taken the precaution of making a duplicate costume and stashing it and a cache of gas pellets in a secret location in a lower Manhattan warehouse.

Upon Drago's release from prison, Daredevil's enemy, Samuel "Starr" Saxon, confronted him at a New York City hotel. Saxon forced Drago to tell him where his Mr. Fear costume and gun were hidden. Once Saxon had the information, he shot Drago in cold blood. Across the hall, Lawrence Cranston, a former classmate of Matt Murdock, overheard the exchange. Saxon located the gear and began masquerading as Mr. Fear. In battle with Daredevil, he apparently fell to his death from his hovercraft. Saxon's robots found his body after the fall and preserved his mind in a robot body, in which form he became known as the Machinesmith.

Lawrence Cranston, a law school classmate of Matthew Murdock, had been staying in the room across the hall at the same hotel as Drago. Cranston had hated Murdock ever since the



Art by Wally Wood



underclassman had defeated him in a mock trial, and he suspected Murdock was Daredevil. After Saxon's death, Cranston masqueraded as a relative of Saxon's and obtained a court order allowing him custody of the Mr. Fear costume and equipment. Cranston waited for the right moment and knew he had found it when both Daredevil and Murdock moved to San Francisco, thus confirming his suspicion. Part of the law firm Broderick, Sloan, and Cranston, Lawrence convinced his partners to hire Murdock as an associate. Cranston used the job to get close to Murdock so he could ambush him. However, Daredevil recognized the scent of the fear gas, enabling him to avoid its effects. Daredevil unmasked Mr. Fear as Cranston, who leapt off the building to escape. However, Cranston had left behind his jets and fell to his apparent death.

Upon Cranston's apparent demise, the outfit came into possession of his nephew, Alan Fagan, a wealthy businessman. Fagan planned to use the costume in a scheme involving the building of a private nuclear weapon, but his plans were foiled by Spider-Man and Hawkeye. After a short jail sentence, Fagan acquired a new chemical which made men irresistible to women. He used this chemical on Betty Brant, then used her connections with Peter Parker to draw Spider-Man into a plot for revenge. However, Spider-Man helped Betty overcome the effects of both chemicals and they defeated Mr. Fear together.

Fagan then joined the short-lived New Enforcers, serving in the secret Inner Circle alongside the Controller, Fixer (Norbert Ebersol), Madame Menace (Sunset Bain), and Mentallo. However, he was soon sent to prison, during which time his illegitimate daughter, Ariel Tremmore, sought vengeance on her father, who she believed had wronged both her and her mother. Ariel paid another inmate to cut a piece of her father's face off; from this she had a chemist synthesize a variant of the fear chemical. She used the redesigned chemical to physically transform herself into Shock, Mistress of Fear. Able to cause both fear and hatred, Ariel ran afoul of Daredevil, who re-dosed her with the chemical, returning her to normal so she could be arrested. From his hospital bed, Fagan plotted vengeance.

Meanwhile, Cranston had somehow survived his fall and was secretly living as a professor at Columbia Law School under the assumed name Harold Cranstone. There he used his fear gas to take vengeance on the faculty members who had overlooked him as a student. As Mr. Fear, he kidnapped reporter Ben Urich and held him alongside the kidnapped faculty members in order to draw Daredevil into a trap. Daredevil defeated Mr. Fear and freed his hostages, but Cranston escaped and returned to Columbia to teach as Cranstone.

Cranston secretly continued to plot against Daredevil, sending agents such as the manic woman Insomnia and the mentally controlled Molten Man against him. Fear then led Murdock to Ryker's Island where he initiated a violent revolt and then sent a new Gladiator against him. Another of Mr. Fear's pawns, Vincent Grazia, rebelled against Fear and used a fire hose against the Gladiator, enabling Daredevil to gain the upper hand. Mr. Fear escaped capture, meanwhile breaking out the psychopathic criminal Charles Burroughs.

Under Cranston's guidance, Burroughs went on a killing spree, eventually stalking Karen Page until she was forced to kill him in self-defense. Cranston arranged for Page to be framed for Burroughs' murder, but Murdock got the charges against Karen dropped when Daredevil linked Mr. Fear to the crime. Escaping capture yet again, Cranston still lives his secret life as a professor, waiting for the right time to strike again. He has also frequented the underworld establishment known as the Bar with No Name.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

**Height** (Drago) 6'; (Saxon) 6'1"; (Cranston) 5'10"; (Fagan) 5'11"  
**Weight** (Drago) 170 lbs.; (Saxon) 175 lbs.; (Cranston) 150 lbs.; (Fagan) 165 lbs.  
**Eyes** (Drago, Saxon) Brown; (Cranston) Blue; (Fagan) Hazel  
**Hair** (Drago, Saxon, Cranston) Brown; (Fagan) Silver

POWERS & ABILITIES

**Abilities** Drago had a gifted intellect and was an accomplished sculptor and talented amateur chemist. Saxon was a genius with vast expertise and innovative ability in cybernetics and bionics. Cranston has legal expertise and Fagan was highly adept in business.

**Weapons** Mister Fear uses compounds based on pheromones, chemicals produced by most animals, used to communicate a variety of simple messages over distances. The particular pheromone he uses is the flight-scent pheromone, which stimulates fear reactions in herd animals. This drug, tailored for human beings, whose reactions to pheromones are not completely understood, induces severe anxiety, fear, and panic in his victims, rendering them incapable of fighting or resisting his will.

The drug is most commonly used in the form of gas pellets shot from a gun. The pellets rupture on contact, releasing the flight scent, which is inhaled by the victim. The dosage contained in one pellet is enough to incapacitate a normal adult male for about 15 minutes, or an exceptionally fit male, such as Daredevil, for about five minutes. The side effects of anxiety, edginess, and mild nausea can persist for several days.

The flight scent can be administered in other ways: Saxon planted a supply of pellets in Daredevil's billy club with a time-release mechanism, whereas Fagan used a miniature hypodermic needle mounted on his ring to inject a large dose of the liquid directly into his victim's bloodstream. Cranston later used gloves able to fire darts of the liquid to administer it into the bloodstream as well. Small but effective doses of the flight scent can be absorbed through the pores in the skin within an enclosed space, but the length of time it takes limits its usefulness.

Saxon also used "repello-rays" (wrist projectors that discharged concussive energy beams) and a hover-platform. Cranston has also used one-man flying jet devices. Fagan also adapted other pheromones to his use, including one that makes a man sexually irresistible to women.





# FOGGY NELSON

**REAL NAME:** Franklin P. Nelson

**KNOWN ALIASES:** Guts Nelson, impersonated Daredevil

**IDENTITY:** Publicly known

**OCCUPATION:** Lawyer, former District Attorney

**CITIZENSHIP:** U.S. citizen with no criminal record

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Unrevealed

**MARITAL STATUS:** Divorced

**KNOWN RELATIVES:** Edward Nelson (father), Rosalind Sharpe (mother), Anna Nelson (stepmother), Candace Nelson (half-sister), Deborah Harris Nelson (ex-wife)

**GROUP AFFILIATION:** None

**EDUCATION:** Columbia University (undergraduate), Harvard Law School

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #1 (1964)



**HISTORY:** Franklin Nelson, nicknamed "Foggy," is the son of Rosalind "Razor" Sharpe, a ruthless attorney who deserted her husband not long after their son was born. Nelson rarely saw his mother during his youth, instead being raised by his father and stepmother. Nevertheless, her career motivated him to study pre-Law at State University, where he quickly befriended his roommate, Matt Murdock, whom he eventually followed to Columbia University and Harvard Law School. Murdock, despite his blindness, occasionally used his physical skills to protect Nelson from campus bullies. Nelson did not realize that Murdock possessed superhumanly enhanced senses which he would eventually use as the costumed hero Daredevil.

Shortly before graduation, Nelson learned that one of his instructors, Professor Golde, had committed plagiarism, but Golde threatened to sabotage Nelson's efforts to pass the bar if he revealed this secret. Contemplating the situation, Nelson was present at a local diner when a criminal called Krueh burst upon the scene, fleeing from his employer, Wilson Fisk, the Kingpin. Fisk beat Krueh and left him for dead, then had Nelson and the others present drugged so that they would forget the encounter. Nevertheless, Nelson's subconscious recollection of the event spurred him to pursue justice regardless of the consequences to himself, and he exposed Golde's deceit, earning his law degree shortly thereafter.

With financial backing from Nelson's parents, Nelson & Murdock opened their own law firm and soon hired a secretary, Karen Page, who by coincidence had also been a witness to the clash between Krueh and the Kingpin; both men were drawn to the beautiful Page. Shortly thereafter, the fledgling firm was sought as legal counsel by the superhuman team known as the Fantastic Four, beginning a trend of superhuman clients for the firm. With a place in the limelight thus established, Nelson was soon encouraged to run as a Reform Party candidate for the position of New York City's District Attorney. In the course of his campaign, Nelson was reunited with Deborah Harris, formerly his high school girlfriend; however, Harris was secretly working with the criminal Organizer to rig elections in an effort to control the city. The Organizer's operations were exposed by Daredevil, and both the Organizer and Harris went to prison.

Nelson next pursued Karen Page as a romantic interest, only to find her attention divided between Matt Murdock and Daredevil; like Nelson, she was unaware that the two men were one and the same. In an ill-conceived attempt to impress Page, Nelson purchased a costume in an attempt to convince her that he was Daredevil.

The costume shop proprietor, Melvin Potter, offered to attack Nelson as the Gladiator to further the deception, but he was defeated by the real Daredevil, an event which triggered the unstable Potter's subsequent criminal activities. When Deborah Harris was released from prison months later, she renewed her relationship with Nelson and worked alongside him as he again campaigned for and

Art by Tim Sale



then achieved the position of District Attorney. Nelson subsequently appointed his friend Murdock as a Special Assistant to the D.A.'s office.

Having achieved such success, Nelson contemplated a gubernatorial run; however, the mysterious Mister Kline, an android from the future, sought to undermine any possibility of Nelson becoming governor. He blackmailed Nelson into unfairly prosecuting the adventurer called the Black Widow, a close friend of Daredevil's, on false murder charges. Murdock himself defended the Widow in court, and she was cleared of all charges. Kline's blackmail gambit was revealed, and Nelson's gubernatorial chances were ruined. He contemplated resigning as D.A., but Murdock convinced him to remain and continue his good work.

However, Nelson's troubles with superhuman subversives were far from over. He became the target of an assassination attempt by the terrorist group Black Spectre, was abducted by the criminal Death-Stalker as part of a trap for Daredevil, and finally targeted by Hydra when S.H.I.E.L.D. approached him as a potential candidate for the spy agency's board of directors, an offer Nelson ultimately declined. When attorney Blake Tower challenged Nelson for the D.A.'s office, Nelson found his re-election campaign being sabotaged by the costumed criminal known as the Jester. Tower disavowed the smear campaign, soon exposed by Daredevil, but Nelson nevertheless lost the election. He and Murdock instead opened Storefront Legal Services to act as legal advisors to the public. Nelson continued to date Deborah Harris, only for her to be abducted by the mind-controlling Purple Man, whose activities were disrupted by his enemy Daredevil. Storefront Legal Services soon closed due to financial mismanagement, and the two attorneys reopened their law firm of Nelson & Murdock.

Nelson married Deborah Harris, but their relationship became strained as she attempted to mold him into the sort of successful husband she desired. Nelson also found himself the subject of another assassination attempt when the Kingpin sent Elektra after him. However, when Nelson recognized Elektra as Matt's former girlfriend, she found herself unable to complete the assignment and spared his life. His relationship with his wife took a turn for the worse when she became attracted to Micah Synn, a brutish descendant of English nobility and a client of Nelson & Murdock. Deborah convinced Nelson to cover Synn's crimes by lying in his defense, then deserted him for Synn, who brutally mistreated her. When Synn was brought to justice by Daredevil, she attempted to reconcile with Nelson; however, their relationship could not be salvaged and the two divorced.

Upon learning Daredevil's secret identity the Kingpin sabotaged Murdock's life, and Nelson defended his friend from false charges of bribery; although Murdock lost his license to practice law, Nelson managed to keep him out of prison. Driven to the brink of insanity by the Kingpin's machinations, Murdock dropped out of sight. Nelson later became involved with photographer Glorianna O'Brien, the niece of Debbie Harris and a former flame of Murdock's who found herself drawn to Nelson. With the firm of Nelson & Murdock disbanded and broken by Murdock's disappearance, Nelson took a position with Kelco Industrials, unaware that the corporation was overseen by the Kingpin.

Murdock overcame his difficulties and, with Karen Page, opened a law clinic in his home neighborhood, Hell's Kitchen. Murdock clashed with Nelson over Kelco's illegal chemical dumping, and O'Brien left him because of his representation of Kelco. Upon learning of the Kingpin's involvement, Nelson resigned. After eventually managing to get Murdock's law license reinstated, the two reopened the firm of Nelson & Murdock. However, when

reporter Sara Harrington sought to expose Daredevil's secret identity, Daredevil faked Matt Murdock's death, allowing Nelson and his other friends to believe him dead. In grief for his longtime friend, Nelson soon found himself the target of Krue, who was insanely hunting down witnesses to the Kingpin's assault upon him. Rescued by Daredevil, he was shocked by the later revelation that Murdock was still alive, having gone through a mental breakdown after attempting to live a new life as Jack Batlin. Nelson was outraged that Murdock had kept Daredevil's identity a secret from him, but he nevertheless stood by his friend and helped Murdock recover his faculties.

Murdock's supposed death was attributed to a S.H.I.E.L.D. operation, and he and Nelson joined a new law firm under Nelson's mother, Rosalind Sharpe. Their first client was the villainous Mister Hyde, who proved to be innocent of the particular murder with which he was charged. Another client, no stranger to superhuman intrigue, was Liz Osborn, herself the stepsister of the Molten Man and the widow of the second Green Goblin. Nelson began dating Osborn; he was beside her during confrontations with Mysterio and the original Green Goblin, her father-in-law Norman Osborn.

When Mysterio set out to destroy Daredevil's life as a climax to his own less-than-successful criminal career, he manipulated Nelson into pursuing client Lydia McKenzie, then framed him for her murder. Sharpe fired Nelson from the firm as a result, and Murdock resigned in protest. Although proven innocent of the murder when Daredevil exposed the hoax, Nelson's indiscretion nevertheless cost him his relationship with Liz Osborn. Nelson & Murdock re-opened their law firm, and Nelson later found himself facing his mother in court, failing in his efforts to indict the Kingpin.

When Daredevil's secret identity was again exposed, this time in the Daily Globe, Nelson stood by his friend during the crisis. Warning of the potential legal consequences should the truth be revealed, Nelson dissuaded Murdock from revealing the truth, convincing him instead to sue the Daily Globe. Nelson was less successful in persuading Murdock to give up his costumed identity, but he continues as Murdock's confidant and advisor, even as his partner throws himself deeper into the war against crime.

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

- Height: 5' 10"
- Weight: 220 lbs.
- Hair: Blue
- Eyes: Brown

**POWERS & ABILITIES**

**Superhuman Powers:** None. Foggy Nelson is a highly skilled attorney with an encyclopedic knowledge of the law.





**REAL NAME:** Leland Owlsley  
**KNOWN ALIASES:** none  
**IDENTITY:** Publicly known  
**OCCUPATION:** Professional criminal; former financier  
**CITIZENSHIP:** United States of America with a criminal record  
**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Unrevealed

**MARITAL STATUS:** Previously married; current status unrevealed  
**KNOWN RELATIVES:** Unidentified family  
**GROUP AFFILIATION:** Leader of the Owl Gang; former ally of Mr. Kline, former member of the Gang of Four  
**EDUCATION:** Unrevealed  
**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #3 (1964)



**HISTORY:** Leland Owlsley was originally a financier with philanthropic aspirations, a thriving business, and a loving family. He was eventually persuaded to launder money for the mob. Developing an aptitude for this new vocation, Owlsley eventually became known as the Owl, the most ruthless financial wizard of all time. When the Internal Revenue Service audited him, he framed his accountant, George Grey for the crimes. Grey ended his life, and the subsequent investigations exposed Owlsley's criminal connections. As soon as his underworld activities came to light, the Owl discarded his pretense of respectability and made plans to become a major crime lord in New York City, leaving behind his former life.

He recruited henchmen to serve in his Owl Gang, and made his base in the Aerie, high above the New Jersey Palisades cliffs. Under unspecified circumstances he acquired a serum which enabled him to fly short distances. Carrying out a scheme to recruit the law firm of Nelson & Murdock for nefarious purposes, the Owl was confronted by Daredevil. He and his men actually captured both Daredevil and Karen Page, but were eventually forced to flee when Daredevil broke free. He was captured by the police in the process of escaping.

After his release, the Owl kidnapped Judge Lewis, who had sentenced him to prison. Conducting a mock trial, the Owl had Matt Murdock kidnapped to act as Lewis' lawyer; Murdock played along, calling in Daredevil as a witness. Despite using a gigantic mechanical owl against the hero, the Owl barely escaped from his new island Aerie while Daredevil freed the judge.

The Owl was then contacted by the mysterious Mr. Kline, who assigned him the task of capturing Daredevil. The Owl left Daredevil for dead at the bottom of the Hudson River after an explosion, but since this was contrary to his plans, Kline manipulated events so that the Black Widow would save Daredevil.

The Owl moved to Chicago where he acquired the technology to increase his own knowledge by draining other people's brainpower. However, his plot was foiled by the Cat (later Tigra). Relocating to San Francisco, he reconstructed the brainpower device, captured Daredevil, and tried to use the device on him. The Black Widow and Shanna the She-Devil saved Daredevil, who defeated the Owl in battle, leaving him for the police.

The Owl was then stricken by a debilitating ailment which paralyzed his legs, apparently a side effect of chronic use of the flight serum. Establishing a new Aerie in the Palisades, the Owl freed the Man-Bull from prison and sent him to kidnap the renowned neurologist Prof. Brent Kerwin so that Kerwin could cure the Owl's neurologic problems. Daredevil saved Kerwin from the Man-Bull. Then the Owl desperately traveled upstate to see another specialist, Dr. Howard Petrovic, who was coerced into devising an exoskeleton and flying device for him. However, Petrovic sabotaged the device, and the Owl plunged into the Hudson River during a struggle with Daredevil.

The Owl was saved by his gang, after which he was successful in recruiting Kerwin who devised a "neurologic pacemaker" to cope with the side effects of the flight serum. Daredevil and Spider-Man rescued Kerwin and defeated the Owl, causing him to have an acute anxiety attack beyond the pacemaker's ability to rectify.

Art by Terry Dodson



Recovering, the Owl had a flying module built to compensate for his now paralyzed legs. He plotted to launch a huge crimewave, but was thwarted in the planning stages by Spider-Man and the Black Widow. After the Tinkerer rebuilt his leg braces, the Owl embarked on an ambitious scheme to replace the Kingpin as New York's top gangleader. After failing to recruit the Kingpin's former hitman Boomerang, he proposed an alliance with Dr. Octopus, which was refused. A war with Dr. Octopus and his gang resulted. The Owl sought a nuclear warhead in order to use it to blackmail New York--while Dr. Octopus sought to use it, period. Eventually the two came into direct conflict; after the Owl delivered a few slashes, Octopus managed to snare him, beat him savagely, and shatter his leg braces.

After recuperating in a prison hospital, the Owl had his agents kidnap Billy and Martha Connors, hoping to force Dr. Curt Connors to use the Lizard serum to help restore his damaged nervous system. Spider-Man helped rescue Billy and Martha, after which the Lizard confronted the Owl and forced him to surrender.

Recovering on his own, the Owl hired the Chicago gang known as the Bombers to help him force his way into the New York drug trade, but both the Owl and the Bombers were defeated by Daredevil. The Owl was then mystically summoned to Winnipeg, Canada by Llan the Sorcerer, where he battled the supergroups Alpha Flight and Gamma Flight alongside the Asp, Nekra, and the Scorpion. The conflict ended when Witchfire severed Llan's controls, causing all of his pawns to drop like marionettes with their strings cut. The Owl was among the numerous criminals drawn to Washington, D.C. by Dr. Doom's Aggression Enhancer. All present were directed to attack the Fantastic Four during their testimony on the Super-Powers Act. His mind clouded by the Enhancer, the Owl was easily defeated, and he awakened with no memory of how he had come to be there.

Imprisoned again, the Owl found that he had begun to mutate, his body becoming more like a real owl's. These physical changes also pushed him towards madness. Escaping, the Owl sought to take over the position of New York's crimelord, following the recent fall of the Kingpin. When the Kingpin's former subordinates proved reluctant to serve him, the Owl savagely attacked them, leaving dead bodies as warnings against those who resisted him. He fought Daredevil in what was perhaps their most brutal struggle; Daredevil again defeated him, and the Owl was overcome by the horror of what he had become.

Partially recovering in prison, the Owl eventually broke out to escape from the endless psychiatric sessions. Unsure of his motivations, he formed a reluctant alliance with the Vulture, but eventually turned against him, helping Spider-Man and Daredevil foil the Vulture's plot. He even supplied Spider-Man with the antidote to the Vulture's virus. The Owl then joined Copperhead, Stilt-Man, and the new Gladiator as the Gang of Four, undertaking a strategic attack on the Kingpin's empire. After fighting Daredevil and Spider-Man, however, the Owl realized that Copperhead was using them, intending to sacrifice a soul to his demonic master. The Owl saved Daredevil from Copperhead, entering the demon's portal himself, hoping to repent for his life of crime.

The Owl later reappeared in New York City, more violent than ever. Vanessa Fisk had divided her husband's empire between several other criminals, but deliberately excluded the Owl, whom she cursed. As Vanessa had planned, the Owl then attacked the other would-be crimelords and usurped their power. He began pushing a Mutant Growth Hormone, which was based on samples of his own DNA and granted temporary superhuman powers to those who partook of it. The Owl initially tried to pose as an innocent businessman, but Daredevil eventually goaded him into attacking FBI agents, after which Daredevil defeated him and he was imprisoned.

Escaping once again, the Owl continued re-establishing himself in New York as a major player among the crime lords. Backstabbed by Electro and the Vulture, who decided to keep \$20 million dollars they were hired to collect, the Owl framed the duo as the pair who had kidnapped Spider-Man's Aunt May, manipulating Spider-Man to help take down the pair.

He has also employed the Black Cat for minor jobs, apparently respecting her decision to stay lawful. The Owl has failed to maintain a position of power in the past, and whether his skills, and their variability with his unstable physical condition, will prove sufficient in the future remains uncertain.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Height: 5'11"  
Weight: 200-220 lbs.; (wearing braces) 240 lbs.  
Eyes: Blue  
Hair: Brown

**Distinguishing Features** The Owl had occasionally taken on more owl-like characteristics, including eyes able to move independently of each other, a neck able to rotate 180 degrees, and the consumption of live rodents.

POWERS & ABILITIES

**Superhuman Powers:** The Owl possesses the capacity for limited flight. With no wind to assist him, he can fly for short distances, no higher than about fifteen feet and no farther than about a hundred feet. With a good strong tailwind, he can glide considerable higher and farther. His maximum speed of flight is approximately 30 miles per hour.

The Owl has occasionally developed razor-sharp talons on his fingers; he has enhanced vision (including heightened night perception and the ability to move his eyes independently of each other), enhanced hearing, hollowed out bones, air sacs in his lungs, and additional cervical (neck) vertebrae, enabling him to rotate his neck over 180 degrees. These changes tend to occur with chronic use of his flight serum, and he has had to adjust his dosage several times over the years.

**Equipment:** The Owl wears a specially designed cloak whose aerodynamic properties assist him in steering during his flight. He has sometimes worn a special leg-brace exoskeleton to assist him in standing and walking.

The Owl employs a pair of razor-edged, tool-steel talons attached to his forearms and extending over his knuckles.

He has used a helicopter customized with his owl insignia to transport himself or his gang. He has also employed various one-man flying craft.





# KAREN PAGE

**REAL NAME:** Karen Page

**KNOWN ALIASES:** Paige Angel, various acting roles

**IDENTITY:** Publicly known

**OCCUPATION:** Radio talk show host; former legal secretary, actress, prostitute, crisis/legal counselor, activist

**CITIZENSHIP:** U.S. citizen with no known criminal record

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Fagan Corners, Vermont

**MARITAL STATUS:** Single

**KNOWN RELATIVES:** Paxton Page (a.k.a. Death's-Head, father, deceased); Mrs. Page (mother)

**GROUP AFFILIATION:** None

**EDUCATION:** College degree

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #1 (1964)

**HISTORY:** The daughter of noted scientist Paxton Page, Karen Page came to New York in hopes of an acting career but initially had little luck. Her consideration of options was interrupted when the diner at which she was eating became the site of a savage dispute between the criminal Kruei and his employer Wilson Fisk, the Kingpin. After dealing with Kruei, Fisk had Page and other witnesses drugged to forget the encounter. Perhaps as a subconscious result of this incident, Page abandoned her acting pursuit for a time, eventually applying for work at the fledgling law firm of Nelson & Murdock. There she met attorneys Franklin "Foggy" Nelson, himself another unknowing witness of Kruei's fate, and Matt Murdock, whose blindness concealed heightened senses and activities as the costumed adventurer Daredevil. Both men were drawn to Page, but her interest soon centered on Murdock, who mistook her growing love for pity.

Unaware of Murdock's secret identity, Page nevertheless soon found herself depending on Daredevil when she was kidnapped by the criminal Owl. Following a subsequent rescue from the Purple Man, she suggested that the hero change his costume from yellow to red in keeping with his codename, a suggestion that Daredevil quickly took to heart. Unfortunately, he proved less receptive in his civilian identity's relationship with Page; even when convinced of her genuine love, Murdock kept her at a distance lest she be endangered by his double life. After several months of working for Murdock's firm and crossing paths with him as Daredevil, Page, fearing that Matt would never return her love, left Nelson & Murdock. When blackmail endeavors by Starr Saxon led Murdock to fake his own death, Page left New York entirely, returning to her hometown in Vermont.

Page found that her father's cobalt radiation work had granted him superhuman powers but had cost him his sanity, leading him to take the costumed identity of Death's-Head. Meanwhile, Murdock, his love for Page overwhelming his concern for his secrets, came to Vermont to reconcile with her and reveal the truth about his alleged death. Daredevil clashed with Death's-Head in battle, but when Death's-Head inadvertently sent a vat of molten cobalt into his daughter's path, he sacrificed himself by pushing her out of the way, dying in her place. Following her father's funeral, Daredevil revealed his true identity to Page. When Foggy Nelson, now District Attorney, announced that Murdock's alleged death had been a hoax to entrap Saxon, the two returned to New York and became engaged. However, Page's insistence that Murdock give up his Daredevil activities drove a wedge between them, leading her to cancel the engagement and set out for Los Angeles to pursue her original dreams as an actress. Again Daredevil followed her, saving her from the crazed Brother Brimstone, but his efforts at reconciliation failed. Page eventually found work on the television series of the cyclist Stuntmaster, and she enjoyed a brief relationship with cyclist Johnny Blaze, secretly the demonic Ghost Rider. When Daredevil's enemy Death-Stalker temporarily took Paxton Page's Death's-Head identity, Page was abducted by the villain, only to be rescued by the joint efforts of Ghost Rider and Daredevil. However, Page's reunion with Daredevil did not renew their relationship, and she eventually lost touch with Blaze as well, finding success in television serials and films.



Art by Tim Sale



Unfortunately, Page's success did not last, and as she struggled to find work she found herself reduced to appearing in pornographic films. The pressure of her efforts drove her to heroin use, and at times she descended to prostitution in order to feed her addiction. Stranded in Mexico following an unsuccessful film offer, Page grew desperate enough to sell knowledge of Daredevil's secret identity to an underworld informant; the information found its way to the Kingpin, now one of Daredevil's bitterest enemies, who used it to sabotage Murdock's life in hopes of breaking the hero's spirit. Murdock was nearly driven mad by the Kingpin's systematic efforts, and Page found her own life threatened when the Kingpin ordered all who had knowledge of Daredevil's secret to be slain. Page escaped an attempt on her life, then bargained with a drug dealer named Paulo Scorsese for passage to New York, where she hoped to receive protection from Daredevil. Fleeing Scorsese shortly after her arrival, Page briefly found sanctuary with Foggy Nelson, only to find herself targeted by both Scorsese and the Kingpin's assassins. Facing what seemed certain death, she prepared to commit suicide via a heroin overdose but was saved by the arrival of Daredevil.

Upon learning of Page's betrayal, Murdock forgave her and helped her overcome her addiction. The two renewed their romantic ties, moving in together in Murdock's old neighborhood of Hell's Kitchen. Murdock soon opened a legal aid clinic where Page found fulfillment as a counselor to those who faced ordeals similar to her own. However, Murdock's efforts did not go unnoticed by the Kingpin, who again sought to break his enemy. To this end, he hired the unstable mercenary and split-personality known as Typhoid Mary to steal Murdock's heart, and despite his love for Page, Murdock found himself increasingly drawn to Typhoid's "Mary" persona. Having assured herself of Murdock's devotion, Typhoid Mary organized several of Daredevil's enemies to attack him en masse, nearly beating him to death. As Mary, Typhoid Mary brought Daredevil to a hospital to receive medical care; when Page arrived to see him, Mary revealed her own knowledge of Daredevil's true identity and claimed to be his lover, a claim that seemed substantiated when the barely conscious hero spoke Mary's name. The heartbroken Page fled. Upon recovery, Daredevil, deeply ashamed of his infidelity, left New York for months.

During Murdock's absence, Page found new purpose as an anti-pornography activist, again hoping to help others in the straits she had suffered. Upon his return to the city, Murdock sought her out, but their relationship was not easily rebuilt. When reporter Sara Harrington sought to expose his secret identity, Murdock again faked his own death, leaving Page to mourn him; she channelled her grief into an investigation of a child pornography ring, hiring the cyborg investigator John Garrett in hopes of exposing the abusers.

Page also sought solace in the company of Foggy Nelson, only for both to be startled by the appearance of the supposed "original" yellow-garbed Daredevil, actually Murdock in a precarious mental state. Page soon learned the truth, and when Murdock's death was again exposed as a hoax, the two renewed their relationship. Hoping to remake herself once more, Page became a WFSK radio talk show host under the name "Paige Angel," in which capacity she praised Daredevil's heroic deeds. However, WFSK's manager proved to be the costumed criminal Insomnia, transmitting low-frequency sonics to audiences on behalf of Mister Fear (Cranston). Insomnia took Page hostage and interrogated her about Daredevil, only to meet defeat as the hero came to the rescue. But Page's troubles were not over yet, as Fear framed her for murdering supposed police officer Charles Burroughs; in fact, Burroughs was a vicious serial killer, and Murdock exonerated Page in court while, as Daredevil, he exposed Fear's involvement.

Despite her love for Murdock, Page became troubled by her growing dependence upon him, and when she was offered a radio job in California, she accepted it and left New York. However, the job offer was only part of an elaborate scheme by the villainous Mysterio, who had purchased Murdock's secrets from the Kingpin in order to destroy Daredevil's life himself in a crazed culmination of his own career. Page's medical examination, doctored by Mysterio, revealed that she had contracted the AIDS virus, a revelation that sent her fleeing back into the arms of Murdock, himself back on the verge of emotional collapse as a result of being covertly drugged by Mysterio. Mysterio next manipulated Page into believing that her condition was supernaturally induced by an orphaned baby in the care of the troubled Murdock, who half-believed the child to be the Antichrist. Page sought the baby at Sister Maggie's church, but Mysterio had also dispatched the assassin Bullseye there, where the killer murdered several nuns. Daredevil arrived and engaged Bullseye in battle, losing his billy club in the process. As Bullseye made his escape, he hurled the club at Daredevil, but Page, desperate to protect her lover, threw herself in its path instead, echoing the earlier sacrifice of her father. The club plunged into Page's chest, leaving her to die in Daredevil's arms.



Art by Joe Quesada

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Height: 5' 7"  
Weight: 125 lbs.  
Eyes: Blue  
Hair: Blonde

POWERS & ABILITIES

**Superhuman Powers:** None. Karen Page was a reasonably skilled legal assistant, actress, and radio show host.

POWER GRID	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
INTELLIGENCE							
STRENGTH							
SPEED							
DURABILITY							
ENERGY PROJECTION							
FIGHTING SKILLS							



# PURPLE MAN

**REAL NAME:** Zebediah Killgrave

**KNOWN ALIASES:** Killgrave the Purple Man, Killy

**IDENTITY:** Publicly known

**OCCUPATION:** Professional criminal, Megalomaniac; former spy

**CITIZENSHIP:** Resident alien living in the United States with an international criminal record

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Rijeka, Yugoslavia

**MARITAL STATUS:** Divorced

**KNOWN RELATIVES:** Melanie Killgrave (ex-wife), Kara Killgrave (a.k.a., Persuasion, daughter)

**GROUP AFFILIATION:** Formerly led a band of criminals

**EDUCATION:** Unrevealed

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #4 (1964)

**HISTORY:** Zebediah Killgrave was a spy working for communist agents on a mission to steal a nerve gas being developed by the U.S. Army. When a guard fired upon Killgrave, a bullet hit a canister of the gas which doused Killgrave and turned his skin purple. He was captured, but then immediately released when the soldier shockingly believed the inadequate excuse he came up with for being on the base. Killgrave soon learned that the nerve gas had granted him the power to command the wills of other people.

Killgrave initially used his powers to manipulate others to serve his desires. At a bar in Buffalo, New York, he commanded a young woman named Melanie to marry him. Over time Killgrave came to have true affection for her and removed his influence to see if she felt the same way; she did not, and she left him forever, traveling to Toronto where she eventually gave birth in secret to Killgrave's daughter, Kara.

Years later, Killgrave robbed a bank in New York City and allowed himself to be arrested. Matt Murdock was to be his lawyer, but Killgrave simply commanded the guard to let him go. Smitten with Karen Page, Killgrave took her with him, leading to an encounter with Daredevil who had the will power to resist his commands. Killgrave manipulated a crowd to occupy Daredevil while he escaped, but Daredevil tracked him down, tricked him into bragging about his crimes on tape, and then bound Killgrave in a plastic sheet sufficient to stifle his powers so that he could be sent to prison again.

Killgrave's powers were neutralized by a chemical mist constantly pumped into his cell, but when an electrical overload stopped the inflow of mist, he escaped. Moving to San Francisco to build his criminal empire, he soon crossed paths with Daredevil, who had recently moved there as well. Killgrave sent his men to rob the Williams Building, intending to use the Purple Man's nerve gas when Daredevil arrived to stop them. When Daredevil resisted the gas as well, Killgrave directed a crowd to attack him. Daredevil narrowly escaped with the aid of the Black Widow's old ally, Ivan Petrovich. Frustrated, Killgrave recruited Electro, but he still met defeat when Daredevil caused his hovercraft to crash; the Widow defeated Electro by leading him into a lightning rod factory which nullified his powers.

Using his powers to escape the police, Killgrave established a subterranean stronghold in the American Midwest from which he plotted the death of Daredevil. His operations were accidentally discovered by Hawkeye and the time-displaced 19th century hero the Two-Gun Kid. Hawkeye managed to disrupt Killgrave's concentration with a hypersonic arrow, and the pair destroyed his base before escaping.

Killgrave later resurfaced in New York City, using his power to force Maxwell Glenn, head of Glenn Industries, to commit numerous criminal acts. Daredevil eventually traced the actions back to Maxwell Glenn and turned him over to the police; Glenn cooperated and confessed his crimes. However, Daredevil recognized the dazed look in Glenn's eyes and tracked down Killgrave, forcing him to flee despite his increase in power. Maxwell Glenn committed suicide soon thereafter.

**Art by Michael Gaydos**



Killgrave, who had learned Daredevil's secret identity, then had Cobra and Mr. Hyde abduct Daredevil and bring him to Ryker's Island prison, where they were joined by Gladiator (Melvin Potter) and the Jester in attacking the hero. Aided by the mercenary known as Paladin, Daredevil defeated the villains. Attempting to tackle Daredevil himself, Killgrave fell into the sea and seemingly drowned.

Surviving, Killgrave encountered Jessica Jones, the super hero known as Jewel. He made her his personal servant for months before he finally sent her off in a fit of rage, causing her to get into a fight with the Avengers. Upon reviving from a coma, Jones was told that Killgrave had been defeated by Daredevil yet again.

Escaping from prison, Killgrave decided that since his powers enabled him to have whatever he wanted, he would now retire from crime. However, the Kingpin sent an assassin, Heinrich von Schnickel-Schnapp, to test Killgrave's power. When it proved real, Heinrich led Killgrave to the Kingpin, who proved capable of resisting Killgrave's power. The Kingpin directed Killgrave in a plot to kill Daredevil, but Daredevil was assisted by four heroes—Moon Knight, Spider-Man, Power Man (Cage), and Iron Fist. Using a pair of ear plugs, Moon Knight was able to ignore Killgrave's commands and punch him out. Killgrave was again sent to prison.

Killgrave relocated to an estate in French Polynesia to live a life of idle luxury. However, he was located and captured by Doctor Doom. The would-be conqueror planned to use Killgrave's power to force the entire world to obey him via his power-enhancing Psycho-Prism. However, Doom found that having control was not as satisfying as the act of conquest itself. When the Avenger Wonder Man, whose ionic energy-powered body resisted Killgrave's power, led the enslaved heroes to revolt, Doom decided not to use his back-up plan, but rather allowed the rebellion to proceed. As a result, Namor the Sub-Mariner shattered the Psycho-Prism, apparently killing the Purple Man and ending the reign of Emperor Doom.

Though Killgrave was buried, he actually survived in a death-like state while his body healed his injuries. The demon known as the Dream Queen pushed Killgrave into a delusional state where he believed himself to be a living corpse. Under the Dream Queen's subtle influence, Killgrave assaulted the home of his ex-wife Melanie and his daughter Kara—who had become the teenage super hero known as the Purple Girl (later Persuasion). The Dream Queen similarly manipulated the perceptions of Kara and Melanie during these events, and it appeared that the Purple Man was consumed in a fiery explosion.

Recovering completely, Killgrave came up with the idea of using the mutant X-Man, Nate Grey, to conquer the world. Killgrave's pheromone powers enabled him to manipulate the much more powerful mutant. The Purple Man boosted Grey's confidence by making him believe that he had regenerated a friend's amputated arm (when in reality it was merely a telekinetic construct). Killgrave allied himself with the anti-national Flag Smasher, funding his terrorists, the Destabilizers, in order to test Grey, after which he sent Flag-Smasher to his seeming death. Killgrave eventually confronted Grey himself, but after he bragged about how his power worked, Grey was able to form a telekinetic shield that filtered out the pheromones, making him immune to Killgrave's manipulations. He then easily defeated the Purple Man.

After a defeat at the hands of the Defenders, Killgrave was sent to the Raft, a maximum security prison a few miles off of Ryker's Island. Jessica Jones, now retired from her costumed identity and acting as a private investigator, was hired by a group seeking closure for the deaths of their family members at Killgrave's commands. Jones confronted the Purple Man, who refused to admit to the crimes and instead mocked her.

Shortly after Jones left the Raft, Killgrave escaped, and he confronted Jones in her own house, tormenting Jessica with his plans for her. The mutant Phoenix (Jean Grey) explained to Jones how to activate a psychic defense trigger, so that Jones would never have to be Killgrave's prisoner again. Jones then beat Killgrave unconscious, and he was returned to prison.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Height: 5'11"  
Weight: 165 lbs.  
Eyes: Purple  
Hair: Purple

Distinguishing Features: Killgrave is colored purple from head to toe.

POWERS & ABILITIES:

Superhuman Pheromones: The Purple Man possesses the power to sap people's wills, allowing him to command people by simple verbal suggestion. His power originates in his skin cells, which have been mutagenically altered. The sites of pheromone production and other secretions in his deep dermis produce numerous psychoactive chemicals, which when inhaled or absorbed through the skin, induce in that individual an overwhelming monomania that renders him or her completely without self.

Killgrave can simultaneously subjugate as many people as are present within the range of the psychoactive chemicals he exudes. He has been known to enthrall crowds of over 100 people. The effects only last as long as he is physically present. When he departs, the level of chemicals is reduced within his victims at various rates (dependent upon their metabolisms), and then the victims regain full cognizance of self. Killgrave is a charismatic individual, with an entrancing lilt to his speech that he has cultivated over his adult life.

Certain individuals with exceptional will-power (Daredevil, Dr. Doom, the Kingpin) or altered metabolic processes (Wonder Man) have proven able to resist his power. In addition, his abilities are ineffective against robots and other non-organic beings.

Killgrave's body has also been mutated so that he is able to recover rapidly from trauma and to heal from severe injuries. In at least one instance, he entered a death-like state while his body healed itself.

Weapons: Killgrave's agents have employed a purple will-deadening gas to overcome victims in their employer's absence. The gas is a derivative of the same chemicals that gave Killgrave his power.





# SAMMY SILKE

**REAL NAME:** Samuel "Sammy" Silke, Jr.

**KNOWN ALIASES:** None, but presumably has used several in the course of his criminal activities

**IDENTITY:** Publicly known

**OCCUPATION:** Organized crime operative/leader

**CITIZENSHIP:** United States citizen with criminal record

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Presumably New York or New Jersey

**MARITAL STATUS:** Married

**KNOWN RELATIVES:** Sam Silke, Sr. (father), unnamed wife, unnamed children

**GROUP AFFILIATION:** Former operative in Chicago Ripa Family, in Kingpin's organization

**EDUCATION:** Unrevealed

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Daredevil Vol. 2 #26 (2001)



**HISTORY:** The son of a notorious mobster ally of the Kingpin, Sammy Silke was a childhood friend of the Kingpin's son, Richard. The two were still boys when they watched their fathers commit murder and realized the nature of their families' activities. Silke rose to a position of power in his father's Chicago-based organization, only to disgrace himself in an unspecified incident which made him persona non grata. As part of a debt his father owed to Fisk, Silke joined the latter's organization in New York City, where he was reunited with Richard Fisk. When the Kingpin refused a request from Silke's father to assassinate attorney Matt Murdock, Silke eventually learned from Richard that Murdock was Daredevil, a secret that the Kingpin knew and kept for his own reasons. Incensed that the Kingpin would allow Daredevil's interference in their operations, Silke worked with Richard Fisk and the Kingpin's lieutenants to organize an assassination attempt on the crimelord; Silke and several others stabbed the Kingpin and left him for dead.

However, the Kingpin survived the attack, and his estranged wife, Vanessa Fisk, ordered retaliation against all participants in the attempt, killing her son Richard herself. Fleeing from retribution, his gangland takeover plans in shambles, Silke turned himself in to the FBI and attempted to use Daredevil's secret identity as a bargaining chip. This ploy failed, but the information was leaked to the press, complicating Daredevil's life dramatically. Silke was sent to prison, but his incarceration did not save him from a recovered Kingpin, who, passing himself off as Silke's visiting father, was allowed into the prison to take his vengeance on Silke.

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

**Height:** 5' 10"

**Weight:** 170 lbs.

**Eyes:** Black

**Hair:** Black

## POWERS & ABILITIES

**Physical Limit:** Sammy Silke possessed the normal human strength of a man of his age, height, and build who engaged in no regular exercise.

**Specialized Powers:** None; Sammy Silke was a moderately proficient criminal strategist, skilled in the use of knives and firearms.

## POWER GRID

INTELLIGENCE

STRENGTH

SPEED

DURABILITY

ENERGY PROJECTION

FIGHTING SKILLS





**REAL NAME:** Unrevealed

**KNOWN ALIASES:** Master, Baby Karen, possibly Yamato-Take

**IDENTITY:** Secret

**OCCUPATION:** Leader of the Chaste, sensei, pool hustler

**CITIZENSHIP:** Unrevealed

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Unrevealed

**MARITAL STATUS:** Unrevealed

**KNOWN RELATIVES:** None

**GROUP AFFILIATION:** Leader of the Chaste

**EDUCATION:** Unrevealed

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #176 (1981)

**HISTORY:** Few details are available about the early life of the man called Stick, although he himself has claimed that he was born "on the street," possibly in New York. It has been alleged that he was the reincarnation of Yamato-Take, a Japanese hero who lived nearly two millennia ago, and may have demonstrated martial arts skills at an early age. During his adulthood Stick, now a master combatant who took his name from the long bo staff he used in combat, became a member of the mystic warrior order called the Chaste, and at some point became its leader in the ongoing war with the assassins of the Hand. Blind since birth, Stick developed his remaining senses to superhuman levels and also developed a "proximity sense" which enabled him to detect the details of his surroundings; Stick has claimed that anyone can develop a similar ability with sufficient training, but the circumstances under which he himself developed it are unrevealed. It is not known if Stick developed these skills before or after joining the Chaste.

Stick was already leader of the Chaste during or at least after World War II and looked much as he would in later decades. The Chaste were active abroad during the war, and at some point they approached an African-American soldier with a talent for martial arts. After the war, the soldier returned to the U.S. and instructed his son James in these arts, and the son in turn instructed his sister, Drake. In 1953, the soldier brought his son and daughter with him to the Chaste's mountain stronghold where he hoped James would earn a place. However, Stick quickly realized that Drake's need and skill were stronger than James's. James had passed his lessons on to her for three years, and when Stick discovered this illicit activity, he insisted that the siblings engage each other in battle, with only the victor allowed to remain. Drake outfought James and studied with the Chaste for two years, but Stick banished her from the retreat for accidentally killing a fellow acolyte in combat; she subsequently joined the Hand, then withdrew from the guild to become an instructor.

When young Matt Murdock was blinded by radioactive material which enhanced his remaining senses, Stick, sensing Murdock's great potential as a warrior, sought him out. Stick trained the youth in acrobatics, martial arts, and the mastery of his new superhuman abilities. However, he ultimately abandoned Murdock as a student, claiming that he was too undisciplined and emotional to suit the Chaste's standards. It is not known how long Stick remained in New York following this decision.

Years later, Murdock entered Columbia University and fell in love with fellow student Elektra Natchios, herself an accomplished martial artist; Stick foresaw that Elektra had the potential for great evil; approaching his former student for the first time in years, he warned Murdock to stay away from her, advice that Murdock did not heed. It was Elektra who broke off the relationship, abandoning her former life following her father's murder. Stick next approached Elektra, warning her of the dangers of vengeance, but she too ignored him and sought the men responsible for her father's death. During the confrontation, Elektra faced death herself, but she was rescued by a Hand assassin. After her departure, Stick confronted the assassin, who disintegrated before him, but Stick now knew that the Hand had also noticed Elektra's potential. Troubled, Stick returned to the Chaste's retreat.





Many months later, Elektra, still seeking to rebuild herself after her father's death, climbed the Chaste's mountain in an effort to reach the retreat. She faltered near the top but was assisted by Stick, who had decided to give her the opportunity to prove herself. Elektra studied with the Chaste for a year, but Stick ultimately decided that she was too driven by anger and sent her away. Elektra was subsequently recruited by the Hand and later became a freelance assassin. As for Stick, he returned to New York, where Matt Murdock was forming a law firm with his classmate and friend, Foggy Nelson. Stick, perhaps sensing the hazards that Murdock would face as the costumed Daredevil, warned him against complacency and reminded him that he had not achieved Stick's own exacting standards.

Stick had no further contact with his former student until years later, when Daredevil temporarily lost his radar sense after being caught in a bomb explosion; it is not known if Stick returned to New York as he had a premonition of this crisis or if he had been there for years already, but Daredevil found him eking out a living as a pool hustler. Again calling upon the methods he had used with the young Murdock, Stick guided Daredevil in regaining his radar sense. By now Stick realized that a showdown between the Chaste and the Hand was coming, and he remained in New York to prepare for the coming battle.

Weeks later, after summoning six other Chaste members to New York, Stick was attacked by four Hand assassins but drove them off. Only three other Chaste members---Claw, Shaft, and Stone---arrived in New York, and Stick met with them at Matt Murdock's apartment. At this time, Daredevil was suffering from a magnification of his enhanced senses and had confined himself in a sensory deprivation tank to escape the relentless input he was receiving. Stick's telepathic communication with Daredevil was broken by the arrival of more Hand warriors, including the giant Kirigi, and Daredevil left the tank, his senses somehow restored to their usual level, to help defeat the assassins. Following the arrival of the Black Widow, who had been poisoned by the Hand but was restored to health by Stone, another wave of assassins arrived; realizing that they were overwhelmed by numbers, Stick and Shaft drained the life force of the Hand assassins into their own bodies; the energy overload resulted in the physical deaths of Stick and Shaft.

However, Stick survived death as a corporeal spirit, and when Daredevil began suffering a nervous collapse after faking his own death and attempting to live a new identity, Stick appeared before him to physically and emotionally challenge him into facing his fears. Stick also advised Elektra, directing her to help the mutant Wolverine to control his bestial nature. Not long after, Stick himself appeared before Wolverine while the hero was rescuing a child from a burning building; Stick led the pair to safety, then confronted Wolverine within the flames, warning him that ultimately it was Wolverine, not Elektra or Stick, who would have to find the way back to humanity. Stick continued to advise Elektra on finding a new path in life, away from the violence that had previously typified her existence, and when the demonic samurai Ogun plagued Wolverine with the attempted resurrection of Wolverine's dead lover Mariko Yashida, Stick guided Yashida's restless spirit back into death and warned Wolverine of Ogun's threat.

When Elektra inadvertently allowed a Hand spy into the Chaste retreat, the order found itself overwhelmed by a Hand invasion and was seemingly massacred. With the Chaste's defeat, the spectre of Stick lost substance, becoming silent and more unfocused before apparently passing from the material world entirely. Stick's spirit is currently believed to have been reincarnated in an infant named Karen, whose life became entwined with Daredevil's through the machinations of the criminal Myserio. The future of Baby Karen remains to be determined.



Art by Frank Miller

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

- Height: 5' 9"
- Weight: 135 lbs.
- Eyes: Blue
- Hair: White

POWERS & ABILITIES

**Disturbance Power:** Stick possessed a "proximity sense" that enabled him to perceive his surroundings despite his blindness; he also had highly developed senses of hearing, smell, taste, and touch. He could communicate telepathically with others over an undefined distance, and he was able to mentally drain the life force from others, killing them if he so chose, although he could only absorb a certain amount of force before it proved too much for his system and killed him. The full parameters of Stick's mental powers were never revealed; it is possible that, like his fellow warrior Stone, he was able to resurrect the dead under certain circumstances. He appears to have aged little if at all over a period of decades, indicating that his aging process had been slowed or halted altogether.

As a spirit, Stick demonstrated an apparently unlimited ability to materialize wherever he chose and was seemingly immune to any form of physical injury. He also demonstrated the ability to project realistic images that could fool even Daredevil's radar sense; he may have possessed additional ghostly powers that were not depicted.

Stick was a master hand-to-hand combatant trained in several forms of martial arts. He wielded a long wooden bo staff in battle.





**REAL NAME:** Wilbur Day

**KNOWN ALIASES:** None

**IDENTITY:** Publicly known

**OCCUPATION:** Former scientist, now professional criminal

**CITIZENSHIP:** U.S. citizen with a criminal record

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** New York City

**MARITAL STATUS:** Single

**KNOWN RELATIVES:** None

**GROUP AFFILIATION:** Former member of Electro's Emissaries of Evil, Kingpin's Emissaries of Evil, and the Gang of Four

**EDUCATION:** Degrees in physics and mechanical engineering

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #8 (1965)

**HISTORY:** While working as an inventor at Kaxton Industries, Wilbur Day stole plans for a hydraulic ram from his employer, Carl Kaxton. Using the design to create armored telescoping stilts and adding a full-body battlesuit, Day set out on a one-man crime spree as the Stilt-Man. However, he was not prepared to take the blame for stealing the design itself, so, as Day, he visited the law firm of Nelson and Murdock, claiming that Kaxton had stolen the hydraulic plans from him. Matt Murdock, secretly Daredevil, accompanied him to a confrontation with Kaxton, which ended with Day exposed as the Stilt-Man; he attempted to salvage the situation by stealing an experimental molecular condenser, but the attempt was interrupted by Daredevil. During the resulting struggle, the condenser's rays shone upon the Stilt-Man himself, shrinking him into a microscopic dimension. The effect wore off some weeks later, and the Stilt-Man returned to his criminal activities, allying with the Masked Marauder in an attempt to trap their common foe Daredevil; in the course of this campaign, he clashed with the hero Spider-Man, whom he downed with concentrated gas. This first victory over a super hero proved a fleeting one, as Daredevil defeated him minutes later.

Perhaps hoping to find strength in numbers, the Stilt-Man joined forces with Electro and several other costumed criminals as the Emissaries of Evil, but none of them could triumph over Daredevil. He next tried his hand as a hired assassin and was sent after District Attorney candidate Foggy Nelson, but Daredevil once again defeated him. Thinking a change of venue was in order, the Stilt-Man relocated to California, but Daredevil also made the trip, hoping to reconcile with his ex-girlfriend Karen Page; on the set of Page's TV show, the Stilt-Man attacked his longtime foe, to no avail. Months later, the Stilt-Man was reunited with another old enemy when he abducted Carl Kaxton in San Francisco, hoping to force the scientist to rebuild the molecular condenser; however, Daredevil had set up residence in San Francisco as well, and with his ally the Black Widow he made short work of the luckless villain. The Stilt-Man turned his attention to new enemies when Los Angeles gangsters hired him to kill the heroic Falcon, but the trip to New York proved wasted as he was defeated by the Falcon and his partner, the legendary Captain America.

The Stilt-Man's finest hour awaited him back in California where he fought the fledgling hero Black Goliath whom he banished to the planet Kirgar via his new Z-ray weapon. The hero soon returned to Earth, and the pair again clashed when the Stilt-Man invaded the headquarters of the Champions in search of a power source stolen from the powerful Stranger. The Stilt-Man's battle with the Champions ended with his Z-ray destroyed, although he himself escaped. He was nevertheless imprisoned not long afterward, only to be freed by the extradimensional Blastaar and receive Secondary Adamantium armor from the sentient computer F.A.U.S.T. (Fully





Automated Unit of Structural Technology). Thus enhanced, the Stilt-Man set out to steal radioactive isotopes for F.A.U.S.T.'s schemes and dared imagine he could defeat Thor, a hope that the thunder god soon dashed.

Deprived of his augmented armor, the Stilt-Man used his earlier battlesuit in a return to his mercenary role when he was hired to kidnap NYC Assistant District Attorney Maxine Lavender. However, fellow career criminal Turk Barrett waylaid him and stole his armor. Even armored, Barrett proved no more effective against Daredevil than had the real Stilt-Man, who assisted Daredevil in defeating Barrett and who was now seriously questioning his abilities. He sought to capitalize on his earlier victory and again battle Spider-Man, but his attempts to augment his armor at a Cordco factory were interrupted by the hero's arrival. The resultant fight ended when Spider-Man took a blast from the factory's defenses to save the Stilt-Man's life. Moved by the sacrifice, the Stilt-Man took the unconscious hero to safety and then departed.

His act of kindness notwithstanding, the Stilt-Man soon returned to the West Coast and to burglary, only to have his armor immobilized by Iron Man. He sued Stark Enterprises for use of excessive force and received a hefty settlement, then headed back to New York with a spare set of armor. Unfortunately, his bad luck returned, and he was soon sentenced to prison by D.A. Blake Tower; escaping, he sought vengeance on Tower but was defeated by the She-Hulk and former super hero Louise Mason. He nevertheless evaded capture once more but met with failure in ill-conceived attacks on the Fantastic Four and the Avengers.

The Stilt-Man met perhaps his most ignominious moment when he, along with several other criminals, sought to obtain a valuable supply of grease. Having retrieved his armor from storage, he learned during a clash with Daredevil that the suit had become home to hundreds of swarming cockroaches; panicking, he stumbled away from the scene, only to be greeted with a faceful of insecticide at a bystander's window. After a thorough airing of his armor, he joined forces with the others in pursuit of the grease, but Daredevil defeated them all, the encounter ending with the Stilt-Man trapped in the very grease by which he had hoped to profit.

By now sorely aware of his limitations, the Stilt-Man was, over the next few months, rarely seen outside the company of his fellow super-villains, whom he joined as a witness at the trial of the Tinkerer, a customer at an AIM weapons expo, a guest at the wedding of the Absorbing Man and Titania, and a patron of underworld bars. An attempt to commit crimes outside of New York only earned him a new enemy, Razorback, who defeated him at a rest stop outside Baltimore. He seemingly hit the big time once more when he joined the Kingpin's new Emissaries of Evil and accompanied the crimelord on a European trip, but fate had him face an amnesiac Daredevil, temporarily locked in another identity; thus neither enemy recognized the other. The encounter ended predictably enough, and the defeated Stilt-Man was kept silent when the Kingpin had him paralyzed by an electromagnetic bio-pulse.

The brief paralysis may have affected the Stilt-Man's mind, for when next heard from he had been committed to a federal mental institution. He was released by the Owl to serve with Copperhead and a new Gladiator in the Gang of Four. The unstable Stilt-Man killed several of the Kingpin's underlings during the Owl's quest for power. However, Copperhead turned on his comrades, intending to sacrifice them to demonic powers, but his efforts were halted by Daredevil and Spider-Man.

Solo and sane again months later, the Stilt-Man craved vengeance on Daredevil, but met quick defeat from Spider-Man, bringing their history full circle. He then sought an easier criminal path by

purchasing part of the Kingpin's fragmented empire from Vanessa Fisk, only to have control wrested from him by the Owl, who broke the Stilt-Man's arm in their clash. Finally disgusted with his lot, the Stilt-Man decided to abandon the New York underworld altogether. In an echo of his earlier attempt to prove ownership of Kaxton's designs, he turned his armor over to Matt Murdock, who added insult to injury by pretending that they had never even met. The Stilt-Man vowed to leave New York, but whether he followed through on his resolve remains to be seen.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Height: 5' 6"; (with battlesuit) maximum of 292'  
Weight: 150 lbs.; (with battlesuit) 400 lbs.  
Eyes: Blue  
Hair: Formerly gray, now bald

POWERS & ABILITIES

Superhuman Powers: Unarmored, the Stilt-Man possesses no superhuman powers; he is a skilled inventor and a moderately proficient disguise artist and hand-to-hand combatant.

PARAPHERNALIA

Accessories: The Stilt-Man wore an armored suit of articulated tool-steel alloy segments, powered by high-density storage batteries and coated with a special silicon compound. It amplified the wearer's strength roughly tenfold, allowed its wearer to move at speeds of up to thirty miles per hour, and was impervious to bullets and many other forms of attack. It was equipped with an air-purifier, gas releasers, and other accessories which could be added or removed as needed. The suit's stilts could extend to a maximum length of over 280 feet and could be used as battering rams with a force of sixty miles per hour.

Later in his career, the Stilt-Man augmented the armor so that its arms and fingers could elongate at will, although the maximum range of these functions was never determined; his stilts were equipped to detach from the main armor in the event of being held immobile, with jet propulsion added to enable ready escape.

In addition to his armor, the Stilt-Man has used various other weapons during his career, including gas grenades, charged-particle beam blasters, a vacuum device to pull money and jewelry from victims, and a "Z-ray" weapon that could teleport people to another planet and possibly perform other functions.





**REAL NAME:** Turk Barrett  
**KNOWN ALIASES:** M.A.U.L.E.R., Stilt-Man  
**IDENTITY:** No dual identity  
**OCCUPATION:** Professional criminal

**HISTORY:** Turk was once a member of the Thunderbolts street gang who were secretly funded and directed by the Zodiac Cartel. Turk tried to force former soldier Billy Carver to join, but was defeated by Carver, Daredevil, and the Black Panther, after which Turk was ousted from the group. Despite his perception of being a man of vision, Turk was never able to rise above the status of petty thug. With Eric Slaughter's gang, he was employed by Bullseye to kill Daredevil. Turk received a broken jaw, and was soon recognized as an easy target by Daredevil, who used Turk to lead him to Slaughter and Bullseye. Slaughter fired Turk after another failure.

In between getting repeatedly thrown through the plate glass window at Josie's Bar & Grill, Turk briefly worked with the Kingpin and lesser crime boss Injun Joe. He blew a chance to kill Daredevil by trying to add some "style" to the killing. Turk once even stole a M.A.U.L.E.R. (Mobile Armored Utility Laser-guided Electron-beam Emitter, Revised) armor, but it only allowed him to last about twenty seconds against Daredevil. He later stole the Stilt-Man armor from Wilbur Day (after catching him unarmored and hitting him from behind), but Day told Daredevil how to disable the suit's gyros and Turk quickly spun to a painful landing. Turk has also been an informant or pawn to Dr. Octopus, reporter Kat Farrell, Iron Man, "Foggy" Nelson, Night Thrasher, the Vice Agent, and Wolverine. In Ryker's Island Prison he tried to escape with the Punisher, only to have the rope ladder cut off above him. He once stabbed a maddened Matt Murdock, but failed to recognize his old foe. He recently tried to kill the Kingpin right in front of a group of FBI agents, who arrested him.

**CITIZENSHIP:** Citizen of the United States of America with a criminal record  
**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Unrevealed  
**MARITAL STATUS:** Presumably single  
**KNOWN RELATIVES:** None  
**GROUP AFFILIATION:** Formerly Eric Slaughter's gang, the Kingpin's agents, and the Thunderbolts gang  
**EDUCATION:** High school dropout  
**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #69 (1970)



**HEIGHT:** 5'10"

**WEIGHT:** 185 lbs.

**HAIR:** Brown

**EYES:** Black

Turk briefly possessed power by stealing the M.A.U.L.E.R. suit (granting him superhuman strength and flight and the ability to project energy blasts, (though he may not have appreciated this ability) and the Stilt-Man suit (superhuman strength, durability, ability to attain great height). However, his lack of experience and common sense has prevented him from exploiting these suits to their utmost.

Turk is aware of much of the criminal activity in New York City. His knack for making the wrong choice or choosing the wrong time borders on the uncanny. Turk also suffers from a steroid-responsive vitiligo, which has caused his skin pigment to fade to a degree when not treated.

POWER GRID	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
INTELLIGENCE							
STRENGTH							
SPEED							
DURABILITY							
ENERGY PROJECTION							
FIGHTING SKILLS							



# TYPHOID

**REAL NAME:** Mary (last name possibly Mezinis or Walker)  
**KNOWN ALIASES:** Bloody Mary, Innocent Mary, Typhoid Mary, Mary Walker, formerly Lyla,  
**IDENTITY:** Known to U.S. legal and psychiatric authorities  
**OCCUPATION:** Professional criminal; former actress, teacher  
**CITIZENSHIP:** United States of America with no known criminal record

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Unrevealed  
**MARITAL STATUS:** Single  
**KNOWN RELATIVES:** None  
**GROUP AFFILIATION:** Former operative of the Kingpin  
**EDUCATION:** Unrevealed  
**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #254 (1988)

**HISTORY:** The exact history of Mary remains uncertain. By some accounts she has possessed two personalities since infancy, and has claimed to remember hearing the screaming of her parents in utero. She spent most of her childhood in psychiatric institutions being studied by doctors. Her more aggressive persona was code-named Typhoid due to its continual fever. The more passive Mary was oblivious to Typhoid, but Typhoid was aware of Mary, whom she despised. Unspecified acts allegedly perpetrated against her by men (perhaps even relatives) strengthened the Typhoid persona. There is also some evidence that Mary may have been a research subject, received psychic surgery, and possibly even served as a field operative of an unspecified group.

As Typhoid, Walker managed to escape her confinement and elude authorities. Eventually, Mary emerged as a successful stage actress, but she suddenly vanished, resurfacing in New York City as a prostitute named Lyla. One night, a masked Matt Murdock entered her brothel, attacking a customer involved with his father's killers. Believing Murdock to be a police officer, the prostitutes attacked him. He panicked and lashed out, accidentally pushing Lyla through a window to the streets below. Mary survived the fall and swore never to be hurt by a man again.

The fall changed Typhoid, even as she repressed the memory; she became increasingly violent toward men. She started a new career in Chicago as a master thief and blackmailer. At some point, she encountered and romanced the mercenary T-Ray for months in Belize, though they parted harshly. Subsequently, she came to Hell's Kitchen where she began wrecking gambling dens, destroying drug houses, and killing criminals. All of these operations were part of the Kingpin's empire, and her actions attracted the crime lord's attention. Impressed by her abilities, the Kingpin paid her one million dollars to launch a campaign of emotional warfare against Daredevil, revealing him to be Murdock as well.

The Innocent Mary attracted the attentions of Murdock while Typhoid began to assault Daredevil. As Murdock's attraction to Mary grew, the Kingpin correctly suspected that Mary genuinely loved Murdock. Attracted to Mary himself, the jealous Kingpin ordered her to break Murdock's heart by revealing she was also Typhoid. However, Typhoid realized the Kingpin was right about Mary, and that Mary was growing stronger. To maintain control and to punish Mary, Typhoid recruited Ammo, Bullet, Bushwacker, and the Wild Boys (Jet and Spit) to kill Daredevil. With the group Typhoid delivered a series of beatings that left Daredevil nearly dead. Mary, however, asserted her personality and brought Murdock to a hospital, which saved his life.

Daredevil recovered, but was badly disillusioned and left New York, while Mary became the Kingpin's chief assassin and lover. During this time, she encountered the monstrous Lifeform, narrowly surviving the experience. A Dr. Doom robot employed her to destroy the youthful adventurers Power Pack, but she merely used her powers to torment them. She stood by the Kingpin during the power struggle between the Kingpin and the Red Skull (Johann Schmidt). When Daredevil returned to New York, he began an assault against the Kingpin. Daredevil seduced Typhoid, deliberately driving her into the Mary persona, then left her to be taken to a psychiatric institution.

**Art by Alex Maleev**



Escaping, Mary was sought out by Wolverine, who suspected connections between her and the psychic surgery facility known as the Project (a.k.a. the Fortress), which created sleeper agents for the U.S. government. As they investigated, Mary sought to have them cure her of her dual personae, but Wolverine had to save her from sabotage and murder by immoral Project agents; she returned to Typhoid's persona before fleeing. Using medication to control her emotions, Mary worked with the Woman's Action Movement and was present at a mall in upstate New York when it was assaulted by the demon Dusk. With the aid of the Ghost Rider (Dan Ketch), Typhoid drove off Dusk, though she literally entered his Realm of Madness in the process.

Returning to an institution, Mary was again recruited by Wolverine. The two were joined by Daredevil, Vengeance (Michael Badalino), and the Fortress's own agent Steel Raven in freeing the young metamorph/empath Jessie from the Fortress before they could perform psychic surgery on him. In the process, the Fortress had captured Typhoid, and their psychic experimentation unleashed a third, more violent persona known as Bloody Mary. With Jessie's help, she also developed a fourth persona, Mary Walker, a seeming amalgam of her other three personae.

Still attempting pharmacologic regulation of her persona, she began tracking down men with a history of abusing women. As Typhoid, she located and attracted the men, then slaughtered them as Bloody Mary. She attracted the attention of Spider-Man, who opposed her in both of her personae. Spider-Man talked her down and convinced Mary Walker to admit herself to the Ravencroft Institute for insane superhumans.

Mary Walker was released into a halfway house where she began work as a private detective. She investigated the Westside Ripper, who actually turned out to be three separate people who were killing prostitutes. In the process she was captured and studied by a pair of would-be psychotherapists and film-makers, Quince Taranova and Trent, who had learned of her via a recording of her previous therapy given to them by an unethical doctor. Escaping the pair, Typhoid learned that Quince's mother was one of the killers, seeking vengeance on the prostitutes her husband visited. Typhoid executed the other two killers—Officer Racette and Detective Richards-- but could not bring herself to kill a woman.

Back in another institution, Typhoid's persona became dominant again and she contacted the mercenary Deadpool, hiring him to break her out. Deadpool and Typhoid later struggled and he kicked her through a window, rekindling memories of her previous trauma in the brothel. She confronted Daredevil, seeking vengeance as well as revealing their common past to him. Though regretful of his past actions, Daredevil fought back and subdued her. Deadpool took Typhoid away, but she then went on a killing spree that Deadpool was forced to stop. Typhoid then tormented and seduced Deadpool by posing as the mutant Siryn, with whom Deadpool was infatuated.

Typhoid continued to work as a mercenary, but her Mary persona took over again, retaining control via hypnotherapy and other means. Mary returned to her acting career, both in theatre and in a television soap opera, returning as Typhoid only long enough to attend Deadpool's funeral (though he later revived). Eventually, the Kingpin, reclaiming his lost empire, violently confronted Mary and brought Typhoid back to the surface. He sent her to kill Murdock, but with the aid of Luke Cage and Jessica Jones, Daredevil defeated her once again.

It remains to be seen where Typhoid will turn up next, as well as whom she will plague, or even who she will be.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Height: 5'10"  
Weight: 140 lbs.  
Eyes: Brown  
Hair: Brown

**Distinguishing Features:** Typhoid wears white make-up on the right side of her face.

**Superhuman Powers:** Typhoid possesses limited telekinetic powers that enable her to levitate small objects (up to approximately 10 pounds) over short distances. She possesses pyrokinesis, enabling her to set objects in her immediate vicinity aflame. Typhoid can also implant mental suggestions in the mind of an unsuspecting individual. She can mentally induce human beings of low intelligence or animals to fall asleep.

In her Mary persona she usually cannot access any of these abilities. Typhoid is able to manipulate Mary to some extent. Bloody Mary possesses the full range of Typhoid's powers.

Typhoid's heartbeat rate, alpha waves, electroencephalographic patterns, biorhythms, and even her scent are different in each of her personae. As Typhoid she runs a continual fever. For unknown reasons (perhaps psychic interference), Daredevil cannot get a clear image of her as Typhoid with his radar sense, nor is he able to follow her heartbeat clearly.

**Abilities:** Typhoid has exceptional, though not superhuman, physical abilities (strength, speed, agility, stamina, reflexes), and she is a highly formidable hand-to-hand combatant. She has some training in judo and has exceptional skill in wielding and throwing bladed weapons.

While Mary is timid, pleasant, and helpful, Typhoid is aggressive, lusty, and violent. The Bloody Mary persona is the most violent of them all, possessing none of Typhoid's sexual lust, just a savage desire to slay and punish men. Her seldom seen Mary Walker persona seems to be a rational amalgam of her other three personae.

**Weapons:** Typhoid carried a variety of machetes and smaller knives. As Bloody Mary, she typically uses her telekinesis to shield her body with various scraps of metal.

**Weaknesses:** Typhoid suffers from Dissociative Identity Disorder (formerly known as Multiple Personality Disorder or Split Personality), and her differing personalities sometime struggle for dominance or oppose each other. Mary has a form of epilepsy, causing intermittent seizures.





# BEN URICH

**REAL NAME:** Ben Urich  
**KNOWN ALIASES:** None  
**IDENTITY:** Publicly known  
**OCCUPATION:** Reporter  
**CITIZENSHIP:** U.S. citizen with no criminal record  
**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Unrevealed  
**MARITAL STATUS:** Married



**KNOWN RELATIVES:** Doris (wife); Arnold (brother); Mindy (sister-in-law); Ken (nephew); Philip (a.k.a. Green Goblin, nephew); unnamed father

**GROUP AFFILIATION:** Daily Bugle staff

**EDUCATION:** NYU degree in journalism

**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #153 (1978)

**HISTORY:** The product of an abusive home life, Ben Urich initially hoped to become a great novelist, but college disabused him of this notion. Changing his interest to journalism, he obtained a job as copy boy for the Daily Bugle while still in college and began his reporting career under city editor Jimmy Hughes; before graduating, he met a woman named Doris at Coney Island, and the two eventually married. Urich longed to put his talent to work on criminal investigations and sought leads on such crime figures as Hammerhead and Fortunato, but after years of reporting he remained assigned to minor new items. In the course of pursuing one such event, a farm festival, he was present at a diner when the criminal called Kruel burst upon the scene, fleeing from his employer, Kingpin Wilson Fisk. Fisk beat Kruel and left him for dead, then had Urich and other witnesses drugged to forget the encounter. Perhaps subconsciously influenced by this incident, Urich's efforts to break into crime investigation soon proved successful, and he covered both petty and organized crime in New York, occasionally working with photographer Peter Parker, secretly the super-hero Spider-Man.

Despite his relative success, Urich hoped for a major news story that would earn him recognition and perhaps the Pulitzer Prize. He focused on the costumed hero Daredevil, and he soon amassed heavy files on the hero, on whom he spent hours of research. Urich's work paid off when he deduced Daredevil's secret identity of Matt Murdock and successfully traced the events that had led Murdock to begin his crimefighting career. However, Urich empathized with the hero and his mission, and when the two met in person, Urich even aided Daredevil during one of the hero's own investigations. He spoke with Daredevil to confirm his own conclusions, then, having decided that the good Daredevil did in New York outweighed his own desire for fame, he burned his files, leaving the secret his own for the time being.

Shortly after these events, Urich met with a source in pursuit of an investigation of crooked mayoral candidate Randolph Cherryh, only to see his source slain by Elektra, at that time assassin for the Kingpin. Elektra warned Urich to drop his investigations, but he found another method of forestalling Cherryh's rise to office when he discovered the whereabouts of the Kingpin's estranged wife Vanessa, living in the sewers as an amnesiac. Alongside Daredevil, he ventured into the realm of the deranged King of the Sewers and watched as Daredevil won Vanessa's freedom. Daredevil then offered the Kingpin Vanessa's return in exchange for Cherryh's fall, an offer the crimelord felt forced to accept.

Urich soon learned that, having earned the Kingpin's attention, he would not easily escape it. Subsequently investigating what he took to be false allegations of misconduct by his mentor Jimmy Hughes, he learned of a housing offer that could take his wife Doris and himself to a higher standard of living. However, after learning that Hughes had indeed acted under mob influence in his newspaper work, Urich also learned that the housing offer was covertly controlled by the Kingpin, who wanted the reporter in his debt. Urich ultimately ran the story about Hughes, and, when Doris learned of the Kingpin's manipulations from Daredevil, she agreed not to pursue the house.

**Art by David Mack**



When the Kingpin learned Daredevil's secret identity and orchestrated his enemy's downfall, Urich investigated police lieutenant Nick Manolis, who had been extorted into framing Murdock for criminal activities. During their interview, one of the Kingpin's operatives, a woman named Lois, severely beat Manolis, pausing to break Urich's fingers. Afraid for his life, Urich dropped the investigation, but his shame at this intimidation prevented him from working. When Manolis called him to confess, Urich feigned ignorance of the subject, only to listen, horror-stricken, as Lois murdered Manolis. Urich regained his dedication and wrote an expose of Murdock's framing, but in return, he and his wife were targeted by the Kingpin, who sent Lois to kill them both. Daredevil rescued the Urichs and captured Lois, who was sent to prison. Urich attempted to interview her there, only to see her slain by more of the Kingpin's operatives; a prison guard shot down one of the assailants, and Urich, driven by adrenaline, beat the other to death with his own gun. Following these events, Urich continued to find himself the object of the Kingpin's interest, as when the crimelord manipulated him into a reunion with his high school sweetheart, Emily Blake, in hope of damaging Urich's marriage; however, Urich refused to be intimidated again.

Urich's own investigation came back to haunt him when fellow reporter Sara Harrington discovered fragments of Urich's Daredevil notes and wrote her own expose on the hero's secret identity, despite Urich's protests. The charge seemed false when Matt Murdock's home was searched and no incriminating evidence was found, but Daredevil himself, concerned by the coverage, faked the death of his civilian identity and took the new identity of Jack Batlin while augmenting his costume with body armor. Unaware of this move, Urich was grief-stricken when Murdock was reported dead and held himself partially responsible for allowing Harrington to uncover his notes.

Urich threw himself into a new project, a book detailing the histories of the various criminals who had used the Green Goblin identity, most notably industrialist Norman Osborn and his son Harry, both believed dead. His investigations led to an abandoned warehouse laboratory, where, unknown to him, his intern and nephew Philip was inadvertently bonded to a high-tech mask, which he used to briefly become a heroic, if somewhat frivolous, Green Goblin. However, Urich's investigation of a seemingly defunct criminal legacy faded before another forgotten danger when Kruel, having spent the last few years in amnesiac wandering, began tracking down the witnesses to his clash with the Kingpin in deluded hope of rebuilding his memories via their deaths. He attacked Ben and Doris Urich, leaving Doris hospitalized for a time. When Daredevil, in his new costume, investigated, Urich, believing him to be an impostor cashing in on Murdock's reputation, scorned him, although Daredevil nevertheless defeated Kruel. Weeks later, Daredevil, undergoing a mental crisis, changed to his original yellow costume and taunted Urich at his office window. Urich was unsure of what to make of these developments, but his efforts to understand them were interrupted when Mister Fear (Cranston) abducted him as part of a trap against Daredevil. The hero, back in his familiar red costume, rescued Urich, who despite the familiar garb failed to recognize Daredevil as Murdock. Eventually Murdock revealed that his death had been a hoax, and he renewed his friendship with Urich.

Still pursuing his book, Urich sought an interview with Harry Osborn's widow Liz, but the exchange was interrupted when three female robots abducted Osborn's young son Normie as part of an computerized contingency plan set into motion by Osborn prior to his death. Accompanied by Spider-Man and the Molten Man, Urich helped uncover Normie's whereabouts and rescue the child; in the course of this adventure, he came to suspect Spider-Man's secret

identity, but, having learned his lesson from Daredevil's travails, chose not to pursue it. He completed his book, "Dynasty of Evil," which proved a financial success, but he faced an unexpected complication when Norman Osborn showed up alive and well, claiming vendettas against Urich and others at the Daily Bugle. Later occupied by his own megalomaniacal schemes, Osborn declined to pursue legal action against Urich for supposed slander, but he did publish his own autobiography, whose allegations cast aspersions on Urich's work.

Urich next threw himself into an investigation of young Timmy Lange, an abused and autistic boy who had witnessed a fight between his father, one of the costumed criminals called Leap-Frog, and Daredevil; Urich became so engrossed in Timmy's story, in which he saw parallels of his own childhood, that he failed to cover an ongoing trial of the Kingpin, and he later made arrangements for the boy to live with the Urichs while he recovered from his trauma. However, he was soon brought back to his former concerns when the Daily Globe revealed Daredevil's secret identity as Matt Murdock. Urich's claim that the allegation was false hardly endeared him to Bugle publisher J. Jonah Jameson, who was determined to use the revelation in his campaign against costumed heroes, but Jameson nevertheless trusted Urich with an assignment to follow former costumed hero Jessica Jones, whom Jameson believed was involved in the disappearance of his ward, Mattie Franklin. Urich aided Jones in discovering that Franklin had in fact been abducted by a cartel distributing a Mutant Growth Hormone drug, and she was soon returned to the Jamesons.

Although Urich grew closer to Jones as they were both assigned to a newspaper feature highlighting costumed superhumans, he became estranged from Daredevil, whose actions had become increasingly erratic. When Daredevil disappeared for a time, Milla Donovan, whom he had secretly married, sought out Urich, who discovered the hero in a secret hospital facility. Urich expressed his concerns that Daredevil was suffering a nervous breakdown, a theory that brought Daredevil's marriage into dissolution, and it remains to be seen how Daredevil's recovery will affect his friendship with Urich.

**NAME:** BEN U. URRICH

**HEIGHT:** 5' 9"

**WEIGHT:** 140 lbs.

**HAIR:** Brown

**EYES:** Brown

**WEARING CORRECTIVE LENSES:** Ben Urich wears corrective lenses.

**PROFESSION:** Reporter

**EXPERIENCE:** None. Ben Urich is an experienced reporter and writer. He is in reasonably fit physical condition for a chain smoker of his age.

POWER GRID	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
INTELLIGENCE							
STRENGTH							
SPEED							
DURABILITY							
ENERGY PROJECTION							
FIGHTING SKILLS							



## BLACK WIDOW

**First Appearance:** Tales of Suspense Vol. 1 #52 (1964)  
**Origin:** Avengers Vol. 1 #44 (1967), Daredevil Vol. 1 #88 (1972)  
**Significant Issues:** Prevented HYDRA from obtaining Logan (Wolverine Vol. 2 #-1, 1997); encountered Ben Grimm and Logan (Before the Fantastic Four: Ben Grimm & Logan #1-3, 2000); sent by K.G.B. to kill Anton Vanko, met Tony Stark (Tales of Suspense Vol. 1 #52, 1964); stole Stark's anti-gravity device (Tales of Suspense Vol. 1 #53, 1964); met Hawkeye, duped him into battling Iron Man (Tales of Suspense Vol. 1 #57, 1964); received costume and weapons (Tales of Suspense Vol. 1 #60, 1964); brainwashed by K.G.B., reunited with Hawkeye (Avengers Vol. 1 #29-30, 1966); discovered husband had become Red Guardian, witnessed his death (Avengers Vol. 1 #43-44, 1967); adopted all-black costume (Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1 #86, 1970); first met Daredevil (Daredevil Vol. 1 #81, 1971); moved to San Francisco with Matt (Daredevil Vol. 1 #86, 1972); joined the Avengers (Avengers Vol. 1 #111, 1973); broke up with Daredevil (Daredevil Vol. 1 #124, 1975); founded the Champions (Champions #1, 1975); killed by the Hand, resurrected by Stone (Daredevil Vol. 1 #187-190, 1982-1983); fought Vindictor (Shadows & Light #1, 1998); met new Black Widow (Black Widow Vol. 1 #1-3, 1999); traded identities with Yelena Belova (Black Widow Vol. 2 #1-3, 2001)

## BULLSEYE

**First Appearance:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #131 (1976)  
**Origin:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #131 (1976), Elektra Vol. 1 #2 (1996), Daredevil Vol. 2 #49 (2003)  
**Significant Issues:** First battled Daredevil for publicity (Daredevil Vol. 1 #131-132, 1976); captured Daredevil (Daredevil Vol. 1 #141-142, 1977); put contract out on Daredevil and captured Black Widow (Daredevil Vol. 1 #159-161, 1979); revealed to have brain tumor, went on delusional killing spree (Daredevil Vol. 1 #169, 1981); allied himself with Kingpin (Daredevil Vol. 1 #171-172, 1981); killed Elektra, paralyzed after battle with Daredevil (Daredevil Vol. 1 #181, 1982); rehabilitated by Lord Dark Wind's adamantium bonding process in Japan (Daredevil Vol. 1 #196-200, 1983); impersonated Daredevil in attempt to ruin his reputation (Daredevil Vol. 1 #284-290, 1990-1991); hired by Rosalie Carbone to kill Punisher and Vito Vaducci (Punisher Vol. 2 #101-104/Punisher War Journal #79-80, 1995); attempted to kill a resurrected Elektra again (Elektra Vol. 1 #1-2, 1996); killed Karen Page (Daredevil Vol. 2 #4-5, 1999); targeted Milla Donovan (Daredevil Vol. 2 #48-49, 2003); sought Identity Disc (Identity Disc #1-5,

## DAREDEVIL

**First Appearance:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #1 (1964)  
**Origin:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #1 (1964); Daredevil: The Man Without Fear #1-5 (1993-1994); Daredevil: Yellow #1-6 (2001-2002)  
**Significant Issues:** first donned red costume (Daredevil Vol. 1 #7, 1965); established "Mike Murdock" identity (Daredevil Vol. 1 #25, 1967); faked death of "Mike Murdock" (Daredevil Vol. 1 #41, 1968); revealed secret identity and proposed to Karen Page (Daredevil Vol. 1 #56-57, 1969); began relationship with Black Widow (Daredevil Vol. 1 #81, 1971); moved to San Francisco with Black Widow (Daredevil Vol. 1 #87, 1972); first battled Bullseye (Daredevil Vol. 1 #131, 1976); secret identity discovered by reporter Ben Urich (Daredevil Vol. 1 #163-164, 1980); first encountered Kingpin (Daredevil Vol. 1 #170-171, 1981); unable to prevent Bullseye from killing Elektra (Daredevil Vol. 1 #181, 1982); allied with Kingpin to take down Micah Synn (Daredevil Vol. 1 #212-214, 1984-1985); life nearly destroyed by Kingpin after secret identity revealed by Karen Page (Daredevil Vol. 1 #227-233, 1986); plagued by Typhoid Mary, left New York City (Daredevil Vol. 1 #260-266, 1988); instrumental in the fall of the Kingpin, got law license back (Daredevil Vol. 1 #297-300, 1991-1992); faked death, adopted new costume and alias of Jack Ballin (Daredevil Vol. 1 #325, 1994); adopted multiple alter egos while battling inner demons (Daredevil Vol. 1 #344-347, 1995); revealed secret identity to Foggy Nelson (Daredevil Vol. 1 #348, 1995); unable to prevent Bullseye from killing Karen Page (Daredevil Vol. 2 #5, 1999); secret identity exposed by tabloid (Daredevil Vol. 2 #32, 2002); suffered nervous breakdown, replaced Wilson Fisk as New York's new kingpin (Daredevil Vol. 2 #50, 2003)

## MILLA DONOVAN

**First Appearance:** Daredevil Vol. 2 #41 (2003)  
**Origin:** None  
**Significant Issues:** Life saved by Daredevil

(Daredevil Vol. 2 #41, 2003); met Matt Murdock, confirmed that he was Daredevil, began dating him (Daredevil Vol. 2 #42-43, 2003); survived attacks by Typhoid and Bullseye (Daredevil Vol. 2 #48-49, 2003); met Ben Urich, revealed she had married Murdock (Daredevil Vol. 2 #56-57, 2004); left Murdock (Daredevil Vol. 2 #60, 2004); filed for annulment (Daredevil Vol. 2 #61, 2004);

## ECHO

**First Appearance:** Daredevil Vol. 2 #9 (1999)  
**Origin:** Daredevil Vol. 2 #9 (1999), Daredevil Vol. 2 #51 (2003)  
**Significant Issues:** Met Matt Murdock (Daredevil Vol. 2 #10, 2000); first fought Daredevil (Daredevil Vol. 2 #11-13, 2000); learned Kingpin had killed her father, blinded Kingpin (Daredevil Vol. 2 #15, 2001); again met Daredevil, confronted Kingpin (Daredevil Vol. 2 #52, 2003); underwent vision quest (Daredevil Vol. 2 #53-55, 2003-2004)

## ELEKTRA

**First Appearance:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #168 (1981)  
**Origin:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #168; Elektra: Assassin #1-2 (1986); Elektra Vol. 1 #-1 (1997); Daredevil Vol. 1 #190; Elektra: Root of Evil #1-4 (1995); Elektra Vol. 1 #18 (1998)  
**Significant Issues:** Began martial arts training (Elektra Vol. 1 #18, 1998); with John Garrett against the Hand (Elektra: Assassin #1-8, 1986-87); slew von Eisenbluth (Bizarre Adventures #28, 1981); returned to NYC, crossed paths with Daredevil (Daredevil Vol. 1 #168-169, 1981); hired as Kingpin's chief assassin (Daredevil Vol. 1 #178, 1982); killed by Bullseye (Daredevil Vol. 1 #181, 1982); resurrected (Daredevil Vol. 1 #190, 1983); Erynys created from Elektra's dark essence by the Snakeroot, Elektra reabsorbed her dark essence (Daredevil Vol. 1 #319-225, 1993-1994); protected Avery Connor from Kiefer (Elektra & Wolverine: The Redeemer #1-3, 2002); formed her own order to battle Tekagi and the Snakeroot (Elektra: Root of Evil #1-4, 1995); assisted the feral Wolverine (Wolverine Vol. 2 #100-104, 106, Uncanny X-Men #332, 1996); battled Bullseye (Elektra Vol. 1 #1-2, 1996); fought the Hand, involving Lyle Crawford (Elektra: Glimpse & Echo #1-3, 2002); hired by S.H.I.E.L.D. to kill Saddam Abed Dasam and retrieve Scorpio Key (Elektra Vol. II #1-5, 2001-2002); hired to kill Piaka "the Bloody Prophet" Loio in Naou (Elektra Vol. 2 #29-31, 2004)

## VANESSA FISK

**First Appearance:** Amazing Spider-Man, Vol. 1 #70 (1969)  
**Origin:** Marvel Graphic Novel #24: Daredevil: Love and War (1986)  
**Significant Issues:** Encountered Schemer (Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1 #83-85, 1970); forced Kingpin to retire (Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1 #197, 1979); kidnapped, seemingly died (Daredevil Vol. 1 #170-172, 1981); amnesiac, encountered King (Daredevil Vol. 1 #179, 180, 1982); impersonated by Heidi DeVoto (Daredevil Vol. 1 #211, 1984); efforts to cure her via Dagger (Spectacular Spider-Man, Vol. 2 #95, 96, 1985); treated by Mondai, left for Europe (Daredevil: Love and War, 1986); returned to New York and took vengeance for Kingpin's attack (Daredevil Vol. 2 #29-31, 2003); divided Kingpin's empire (Daredevil Vol. 2 #36, 2003)

## GLADIATOR

**First Appearance:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #18 (1966)  
**Origin:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #18 (1966); Daredevil Vol. 1 #166 (1980)  
**Significant Issues:** First clashed with Daredevil (Daredevil Vol. 1 #18, 1966); affiliated with Masked Marauder (Daredevil Vol. 1 #19, 22, 23, 1966); teamed up with Emissaries of Evil to fight Daredevil (Daredevil Annual Vol. 1 #1, 1967); murdered Eel (Ghost Rider Vol. 2 #21, 1976); revealed to suffer from schizophrenia (Daredevil Vol. 1 #166, 1980); first attempted to reform and fought against the Hand (Daredevil Vol. 1 #173-175, 1981); vowed to never wear Gladiator armor again (Daredevil Vol. 1 #186, 1982); almost pressured into returning to crime (Spectacular Spider-Man Vol. 1 #77, 1983); blackmailed into stealing jewelry (Daredevil Vol. 1 #226, 1986); attempted to dissuade would-be successor (Marvel Comics Presents #98, 1992); attended Karen Page's funeral (Daredevil Vol. II #8, 1999)

## HAND

**First Appearance:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #174 (1981)  
**Origin:** None  
**Significant Issues:** Fought Wolverine, Captain America, others during World War II (Uncanny X-Men #268, 1990); saved Elektra's life (Elektra Minus-One, 1997); recruited Elektra, abandoned by

her (Daredevil Vol. 1 #190, 1983); targeted Matt Murdock, fought Daredevil and Elektra (Daredevil Vol. 1 #174-175, 1981); fought Daredevil and the Black Widow, partially resurrected Elektra (Daredevil Vol. 2 #187-190, 1982-1983); first worked with Matsuo Tsurayaba, fought Psylocke and Wolverine (Uncanny X-Men #255-257, 1989-1990); slew and resurrected Nina McCabe, set her against Elektra, seemingly destroyed the Chaste (Elektra Vol. 1 #14-19, 1998); sought to materialize K'un Lun, defeated by various heroes (Iron Fist/Wolverine #1-4, 2000); sought Stick's reincarnation, defeated by Daredevil and the Chaste (Daredevil: Ninja #2-3, 2001)

## JESSICA JONES

**First Appearance:** Alias #1 (2001)  
**Origin:** Alias #22-23 (2003)  
**Significant Issues:** Flashback, subjugated by the Purple Man, gave up costumed crimefighting (Alias #25-26, 2003); manipulated into effort to expose Captain America's secret identity, protected secret (Alias #1-5, 2001-2002); became Matt Murdock's bodyguard (Daredevil Vol. 2 #36, 2002); went on first date with Ant-Man (Alias #15, 2002); rescued Mattie (Spider-Woman) Franklin from MGH ring (Alias #16-21, 2003); fought Typhoid Mary alongside Cage (Daredevil Vol. 2 #48, 2003); confronted the Purple Man in prison, defeated him after his breakout announced pregnancy to Cage (Alias #26-28, 2003-2004); met with J. Jonah Jameson about job offer (Pulse #1, 2004)

## KINGPIN

**First Appearance:** Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1 #50 (1967)  
**Origin:** Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1 #-1 (1997); Daredevil Vol. 2 #15 (2001)  
**Significant Issues:** Killed crime boss Don Rigoletto and became NYC's Kingpin of Crime (Daredevil: The Man without Fear #3, 1991); initiated crime wave in attempt to crush rival gangs in Spider-Man's absence (Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1 #50-52, 1967); went into catatonic state after learning that Schemer was his son (Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1 #83-85, 1970); briefly affiliated himself with HYDRA (Captain American Vol. 1 #145-148, 1972); resuscitated son with Spider-Man's life force (Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1 #163-164, 1976-1977); returned to New York underworld (Daredevil Vol. 1 #170, 1981); backed puppet NYC mayoral candidate Randolph Winston Cherryh, hired Elektra to kill Ben Urich (Daredevil Vol. 1 #177-180, 1981-1982); sent Answer against Spider-Man, Black Cat, Cloak, and Dagger (Spectacular Spider-Man Vol. 2 #91-97, 1984); joined forces with Daredevil to take down Micah Synn (Daredevil Vol. 1 #211-214, 1984-1985); discovered Daredevil's civilian identity (Daredevil Vol. 1 #227, 1986); hired Typhoid Mary to seduce Matt Murdock (Daredevil Vol. 1 #254, 1988); participated as prime mover in Loki's Acts of Vengeance scheme (Avengers Vol. 1 #312, 1989); empire practically destroyed by Daredevil and Hydra (Daredevil Vol. 1 #297-300, 1991-1992); faced X-Men as affiliate of Fujikawa Corporation in Far East (X-Men Vol. 2 #62-64, 1997); reestablished former criminal empire in NYC (Spider-Man: Made Men, 1998); blinded by Echo (Daredevil Vol. 2 #15, 2001); survived coup led by Sammy Silke, Jr. (Daredevil Vol. 2 #26-31, 2001-2002); displaced by Matt Murdock as the new Kingpin (Daredevil Vol. 2 #50, 2003)

## MISTER FEAR

**First Appearance:** (Drago) Daredevil Vol. 1 #6 (1965); ("Starr" Saxon) Daredevil Vol. 1 #49 (1969), (Saxon as Mr. Fear) Daredevil Vol. 1 #54 (1969); (Cranston) Daredevil Vol. 1 #88 (1972), (Cranston as Mr. Fear) Daredevil Vol. 1 #91 (1972); (Fagan) Marvel Team-Up Vol. 1 #92 (1980)  
**Origin:** (Drago) Daredevil Vol. 1 #6 (1965); Dr. Strange Vol. 3 #33 (1991); (Saxon, as Mr. Fear) Daredevil Vol. 1 #55 (1969); (Cranston) Daredevil Vol. 1 #91 (1972); (Fagan) Marvel Team-Up Vol. 1 #92 (1980)  
**Significant Issues:** Drago teamed up with Ox and Eel to battle Daredevil as the Fellowship of Fear (Daredevil Vol. 1 #6, 1965); Saxon killed Drago and assumed Mr. Fear identity (Daredevil Vol. 1 #54, 1969); Saxon fell to his death in battle with Daredevil (Daredevil Vol. 1 #55, 1969); Cranston attacked Daredevil and Black Widow in San Francisco (Daredevil Vol. 1 #90, 1972); Fagan's attempt to blackmail New York City foiled by Spider-Man and Hawkeye (Marvel Team-Up Vol. 1 #92, 1980); Fagan manipulated Betty Brant (Web of Spider-Man #63, 1990); Fagan attempted to control criminal underworld as member of Inner Circle of New Enforcers (Web of Spider-Man #99-100, 1993); Shock empowered, battles Daredevil (Daredevil Vol. 1 #314-



315, 1993); Cranston revealed to be still alive, returned as Mr. Fear (Over the Edge #1, 1995); Cranston stole chemicals and used fear gas to start prison riot (Daredevil Vol. 1 #365-367, 1997)

**FOGGY NELSON**

**First Appearance:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #1 (1964)  
**Origin:** None  
**Significant Issues:** Met Matt Murdock (Daredevil Vol.1 #-1, 1997); elected as District Attorney (Daredevil Vol. 1 #48, 1969); offered position on S.H.I.E.L.D. board of directors (Daredevil Vol. 1 #120-121, 1975); lost D.A. re-election (Daredevil Vol. 1 #130, 1976); learned Murdock's secret identity (Daredevil Vol. 1 #347, 1995); joined mother's law firm (Daredevil Vol. 1 #353, 1996); began dating Liz Osborn (Daredevil Vol. 1 #358, 1996); framed for murder (Daredevil Vol. 2 #3, 1999); re-founded Nelson & Murdock (Daredevil Vol. 2 #8, 1999)

**OWL**

**First Appearance:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #3 (1964)  
**Origin:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #303 (1992)  
**Significant Issues:** Captured Daredevil and Karen Page (Daredevil Vol. 1 #3, 1964); put Judge Lewis on trial (Daredevil Vol. 1 #20-21, 1966); nearly killed Daredevil on behalf of Mr. Kline (Daredevil Vol. 1 #80-81, 1971); captured Daredevil in San Francisco (Daredevil Vol. 1 #116-117, 1971); sought cure for paralysis (Daredevil Vol. 1 #144-145, 1977); plans foiled by Spider-Man and Black Widow (Marvel Team-Up Vol. 1 #98, 1980); fought gang war against Dr. Octopus (Spectacular Spider-Man Vol. 2 #73-76, 1988); kidnapped Billy and Martha Connors to get Lizard serum (Spectacular Spider-Man Vol. 2 #127, 1987); attempted to take over part of Kingpin's empire in mutated form (Daredevil Vol. 1 #301-303, 1992); helped Daredevil and Spider-Man stop Vulture (Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1 #396, Spectacular Spider-Man Vol. 2 #219, 1994); launched attack against Kingpin's empire as member of the Gang of Four, nearly sacrificed life to stop Copperhead's demonic plan (Daredevil/Spider-Man #1-4, 2001); attempted power grab in Kingpin's absence while posing as legitimate businessman (Daredevil Vol. 2 #41-45, 2003)

**KAREN PAGE**

**First Appearance:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #1 (1964)  
**Origin:** None  
**Significant Issues:** Hired by Nelson and Murdock (Daredevil: Yellow #2, 2001); learned Daredevil's secret identity (Daredevil Vol. 1 #57, 1969); became engaged to Matt Murdock (Daredevil Vol. 1 #58, 1969); broke off engagement, left New York for Los Angeles (Daredevil Vol. 1 #63, 1970); rescued from Death-Stalker by Daredevil and Ghost Rider (Daredevil Vol. 1 #138/Ghost Rider Vol. 2 #20, 1976); sold information about Daredevil's secret identity (Daredevil Vol. 1 #227, 1986); reunited with Murdock (Daredevil Vol. 1 #231, 1986); hired John Garrett to investigate child pornography ring (Daredevil Vol. #342, 1995); became radio talk show host as Paige Angel (Daredevil Vol. 1 #357, 1996); framed for murder by Mister Fear, cleared by Murdock (Daredevil Vol. 1 #374-375, 1998); killed by Bullseye while trying to protect Daredevil (Daredevil Vol. 2 #5, 1999)

**PURPLE MAN**

**First Appearance:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #4 (1964)  
**Origin:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #4 (1964)  
**Significant Issues:** Fathered Persuasion (Alpha Flight Vol. 1 #41, 1986); attempted kidnap of Karen Page (Daredevil Vol. 1 #4, 1964); captured Daredevil in San Francisco, allied with Electro (Daredevil Vol. 1 #88-89, 1972); battled Hawkeye and Two-Gun Kid in American Midwest (Marvel Tales #100, 1979); revealed as manipulator of Maxwell Glenn (Daredevil Vol. 1 #147, 1977); manipulated Cobra, Gladiator, Jester, and Mr. Hyde into battling Daredevil (Daredevil Vol. 1 #153-154, 1978); sent to kill Daredevil by Kingpin, defeated by Daredevil, Iron Fist, Moon Knight, Power Man, and Spider-Man (Marvel Team-Up Annual #4, 1981); captured and used by Dr. Doom to become Emperor of the World (Avengers: Emperor Doom, 1987); manipulated by Dream Queen to attack ex-wife and daughter (Alpha Flight Vol. 1 #62, 1988); attempted to conquer the world by manipulating X-Man (X-Man #34-36, 1998); confronted Jessica Jones (Alias #27-28, 2003-2004)

**SAMMY SILKE**

**First Appearance:** Daredevil Vol. 2 #26 (2001)  
**Origin:** None  
**Significant Issues:** Joined Kingpin's organization, learned that Matt Murdock was Daredevil (Daredevil Vol. 2 #29-30, 2002); led assassination attempt on Kingpin (Daredevil Vol. 2 #26, 2001); nearly killed by

Vanessa Fisk's forces, revealed Daredevil's secret to FBI (Daredevil Vol. 2 #31, 2002); presumably killed by Kingpin (Daredevil Vol. 2 #45, 2003)

**STICK**

**First Appearance:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #176 (1981)  
**Origin Issue:** None  
**Significant Issues:** Presided over Drake's training in the Chaste, later rejected her (Elektra Vol. 2 #19, 2003); trained Matt Murdock (Daredevil: The Man Without Fear #1, 1993); admitted Elektra into the Chaste, later rejected her (Daredevil Vol. 1 #190, 1983); helped Daredevil regain his radar sense (Daredevil Vol. 1 #176-177, 1981); attacked by the Hand, fought back alongside Daredevil and others, sacrificed life to kill Hand assassins (Daredevil Vol. 1 #187-189, 1982); appeared as spirit to guide Daredevil away from nervous breakdown (Daredevil Vol. 1 #348-350, 1995-1996); sent Elektra to help Wolverine (Wolverine Vol. 2 #100, 1996); advised Elektra on seeking new path (Elektra Vol. 1 #1-2, 1996); helped Wolverine against Ogun (Wolverine Vol. 2 #111, 1997); lost substance after the Chaste's defeat, vanished to be reincarnated (Elektra Vol. 1 #19, 1998); history of Yamato-Take, revealed as having been reincarnated in Baby Karen (Daredevil: Ninja #1-3, 2000-2001)

**STILT-MAN**

**First Appearance:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #8 (1965)  
**Origin:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #8 (1965)  
**Significant Issues:** Built armor, clashed with Daredevil, shrunken into microverse (Daredevil Vol. 1 #8, 1965); returned to normal size, defeated Spider-Man, teamed with the Masked Marauder against Daredevil (Daredevil Vol. 1 #26-27, 1967); joined Electro's Emissaries of Evil, fought Daredevil (Daredevil Annual #1, 1967); fought Daredevil and the Black Widow in San Francisco (Daredevil Vol. 1 #102, 1973); fought Black Goliath (Black Goliath #4, 1976); fought the Champions (Champions #12, 1977); freed by Blastaar, received new armor from FAUST, fought Thor (Thor Vol. 1 #269, 1977); armor stolen by Turk Barrett, helped Daredevil against him (Daredevil Vol. 186, 1982); again fought Spider-Man (Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1 #237, 1983); joined the Kingpin's Emissaries of Evil, fought amnesiac Daredevil (Daredevil Vol. 1 #377, 1998); joined the Gang of Four, fought Daredevil and Spider-Man (Daredevil/Spider-Man #1-4, 2001); surrendered armor to Matt Murdock (Daredevil Vol. 2 #41, 2003)

**TURK**

**First Appearance:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #69 (1970)  
**Origin:** None  
**Significant Issues:** With Slaughter's gang, employed by Bullseye (Daredevil Vol. 1 #159-161, 1979); botched chance to kill Daredevil (Daredevil Vol. 1 #171, 1981); stole M.A.U.L.E.R. suit (Daredevil Vol. 1 #176, 1981); stole Stilt-Man suit (Daredevil Vol. 1 #186, 1982); stabbed Matt Murdock (Daredevil Vol. 1 #229, 1986); tried to shoot Kingpin (Daredevil Vol. 2 #47, 2003)

**TYPHOID**

**First Appearance:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #254 (1988)  
**Origin:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #254 (1988); Daredevil: Man without Fear #2 (1993)  
**Significant Issues:** Hired by Kingpin to seduce Matt Murdock (Daredevil Vol. 1 #254-256, 1988); nearly beat Daredevil to death alongside Ammo, Bullet, Bushwacker, and the Wild Boys (Daredevil Vol. 1 #259-260, 1988); caused Karen Page to believe that Murdock was unfaithful (Daredevil Vol. 1 #263, 1989); investigated the Fortress with Wolverine (Marvel Comics Presents #109-116, 1992); "Bloody Mary" persona unleashed by the Fortress (Marvel Comics Presents #150-151, 1994); battled Spider-Man as both "Typhoid Mary" and "Bloody Mary" (Spectacular Spider-Man Vol. 2 #213-214, 1994); investigated the Westside Ripper serial murders (Typhoid #1-4, 1995-1996); affiliated with Deadpool (Deadpool Vol. 3 #8, 10, 12-14, 1997-1998); "Typhoid" persona brought back by Kingpin, sent to kill Daredevil (Daredevil Vol. 2 #46-48, 2003)

**BEN URICH**

**First Appearance:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #153 (1978)  
**Origin:** Daredevil Vol. 1 #192 (1983)  
**Significant Issues:** Revealed that he had learned Daredevil's secret identity, promised to keep it secret (Daredevil Vol. 1 #164, 1980); helped Daredevil rescue Vanessa Fisk from the King (Daredevil Vol. 1 #180, 1982); investigated former mentor, turned down real estate deal from the Kingpin (Daredevil Vol. 1 #192, 1983); warned away from investigating Matt Murdock's

disappearance, targeted by Kingpin's operative Lois, rescued by Daredevil (Daredevil Vol. 1 #229-231, 1986); tried to interview Lois, endangered by assassins, killed one of them (Daredevil Vol. 1 #232, 1986); reunited with Emily Blake through machinations of the Kingpin (Daredevil Annual #7, 1991); attempted to prevent Sara Harrington from exposing Daredevil's secret identity (Daredevil Vol. 1 #325, 1994); attacked by Kruei, confronted Daredevil, believing that he was not Matt Murdock (Daredevil Vol. 1 #339, 1995); abducted by Mister Fear (Cranston), rescued by Daredevil (Over the Edge #1, 1995); confronted by the Green Goblin (Norman Osborn) (Spider-Man Vol. 1 #75, 1996); met with Milla Donovan, expressed concerns to Daredevil (Daredevil Vol. 2 #56-59, 2004)

**POWER RATINGS**

**STRENGTH**

Ability to lift weight

- 1 Weak: cannot lift own body weight
- 2 Normal: able to lift own body weight
- 3 Peak human: able to lift twice own body weight
- 4 Superhuman: 800 lbs-25 ton range
- 5 Superhuman: 25-75 ton range
- 6 Superhuman: 75-100 ton range
- 7 Incalculable: in excess of 100 tons

**INTELLIGENCE**

Ability to think and process information

- 1 Slow/Impaired
- 2 Normal
- 3 Learned
- 4 Gifted
- 5 Genius
- 6 Super-Genius
- 7 Omniscient

**ENERGY PROJECTION**

Ability to discharge energy

- 1 None
- 2 Ability to discharge energy on contact
- 3 Short range, short duration, single energy type
- 4 Medium range, duration, single energy type
- 5 Long range, long duration, single energy type
- 6 Able to discharge multiple forms of energy
- 7 Virtually unlimited command of all forms of energy

**FIGHTING ABILITY**

Proficiency in hand-to-hand combat

- 1 Poor
- 2 Normal
- 3 Some training
- 4 Experienced fighter
- 5 Master of a single form of combat
- 6 Master of several forms of combat
- 7 Master of all forms of combat

**DURABILITY**

Ability to resist or recover from bodily injury

- 1 Weak
- 2 Normal
- 3 Enhanced
- 4 Regenerative
- 5 Bulletproof
- 6 Superhuman
- 7 Virtually indestructible

**SPEED**

Ability to move over land by running or flight

- 1 Below normal
- 2 Normal
- 3 Superhuman: peak range: 700 MPH
- 4 Speed of sound: Mach-1
- 5 Supersonic: Mach-2 through Orbital Velocity
- 6 Speed of light: 186,000 miles per second
- 7 Warp speed: transcending light speed



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